

first-named member asked what the new Cabinet had altered in our Atchin-policy? and if we are still involved in a war with that country? also whether this Cabinet made themselves answerable for the declaration of the former Cabinet, that we were quite in the right when we went to war? Mr. Van Goltstein answered that he was obliged to accept accomplished facts; the Government does not approve the policy that led to the war, but it was now its duty to carry it on: *j'y suis j'y reste*. In the meantime all that was possible would be done to terminate the war. He did not know anything about bad reports, and he stated that there were no reasons for uneasiness. The end of this unimportant debate was that the Budget was carried by 65 ayes against 2 noes. With a tournament between the Minister of the Financial Department and some members, who have built *Chateau en Espagne*, about free trade, abolition of the taxes on soap, salt, sugar, &c., the sitting ended. The members will now rest for three or four weeks. When they re-assemble they will deal with the fortress system—the “to be or not to be” of General Weitzel. The members of the First Chamber met yesterday for the despatch of business. I think the debates in our Senate will be very dull, there being not the least intention to overthrow the Cabinet.

The committee at the Hague that made an appeal to the public to back them in their endeavours to substitute cremation for interment has had success. More than 200 persons have intimated that they were willing to become members of a cremation society. Amongst them were many ladies.

Mr. J. Heykamp, pastor at Schiedam, has been elected Archbishop of the Old Catholics in Holland.

Mr. Fransen van de Putte has left the Hague for a trip abroad. He will stay some months in Italy.

At the Bourse a lull prevails. The prices of the shares in the Trading Company have gone down enormously, as much as 1½ per cent. Rumours are current that the Company has undergone heavy losses by failures in Japan. Dividends for next year were offered at f.25 to f.28. We, however, must not forget that the Company is actually in a state of transition, and that the manager will “clear the ship.” Bad debts will be written off and bad speculations set aside. That this influences the dividend is quite comprehensible, but there is no fear for the capital. The prices of shares of the East India Railway Company have advanced rather considerably. From the prospectus of the new loan I learn that till the 1st of January, 1876, only an amount of f.2,300,000 will be brought on the market. The price of subscription is 95 per cent., with an interest of 1½ per cent. The Company is of opinion that the future is most promising.

On the Produce Markets transactions have come to a stand-still. Only some very small parcels for direct wants have changed hands. The auctions, which were held last week, have, however, given fairly satisfactory results, although prices in most instances tended downward.

Our weather is horrible. Wind, storm, rain, hail, snow and just frost enough to make the streets slippery.

UNITED STATES.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—CHINA AND JAPAN.

The full text of President Grant's Message to Congress, presented on the 7th inst., has been received. With reference to China affairs the President says:—Our relations with China continue to be friendly. During the past year the fear of hostilities between China and Japan, growing out of the landing of an armed force upon the Island of Formosa by the latter, has occasioned uneasiness. It is earnestly hoped, however, that the difficulties arising from this cause will be adjusted, and that the advance of civilisation in these empires may not be retarded by a state of war. In consequence of the part taken by certain citizens of the United States in this expedition, our representatives in those countries have been instructed to impress upon the Government of China and Japan the firm intention of this country to maintain strict neutrality in the event of hostilities and to carefully prevent any infraction of law on the part of our citizens. In connection with this subject I call the attention of Congress to a generally conceded fact that the great proportion of the Chinese immigrants who come to our shores do not come voluntarily to make their homes with us and their labour productive of general prosperity, but come under contracts with head men, who own them almost absolutely. In a worse form does it apply to Chinese women. Hardly a perceptible percentage of them perform any honourable labour, but they are bought for shameful purposes to the disgrace of the communities where settled, and to the great demoralisation of the youth of those localities. If this evil practice can be legislated against it will be my pleasure as well as duty to enforce any resolution to secure so desirable an end.

On the subject of Japan the President says:—It is hoped that negotiations between the Government of Japan and the Treaty Powers, looking to the further opening of the Empire and to the removal of various restrictions upon trade and travel, may soon produce the results desired, which cannot fail to inure to the benefit of all the parties. Having, on previous occasions, submitted to the consideration of Congress the propriety of the release of the Japanese Government from the further payment of the indemnity under the Convention of October 22, 1864, and as no action had been taken thereon, it became my duty to regard the obligations of the Convention as in force, and as the other Powers interested have received their portion of the indemnity in full, the Minister of the United States in Japan has, in behalf of this Government, received the remainder of the amount due to the United States under the Convention of Simanoseki. I submit the propriety of applying the income of a part, if not the whole, of this fund to the education in the Japanese language of a number of young men, to be under obligations to serve the Government for a specified time as interpreters at the Legation and the Consulates in Japan. A limited number of Japanese youths might at the same time be educated in our vernacular, and mutual benefit would result to both Governments. The importance of having our own citizens competent and familiar with the language of Japan, to act as interpreters and in other capacities connected with the Legation and the Consulates in that country, cannot be readily overestimated.

ON THE DUTIES OF JAPANESE MINISTERS ACCREDITED TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

(TRANSLATION.)

“*Nichi-nichi Shinbun*.”

What are the duties for the discharge of which a Representative is sent to a foreign country and for which he resides at the capital of that country? It is necessary for us at the present moment to devote special attention to this question and to arrive at a clear comprehension.

Although there are Representatives of several degrees in rank, there is no difference between them as regards their powers as Envoys of their Sovereign and Representatives of their Government. The most important duty in connection with which they are sent to foreign Courts is to see that the treaties of friendship concluded between their own country and that to which they are accredited are faithfully carried out, and to exert every effort to protect the rights of their fellow-countrymen.

Is there any matter of such vital importance as the accrediting of our representatives to foreign countries? Is it because our people do not take the slightest amount of interest in the subject of our foreign relations that we have asked this question? Some say that the appointments are unnecessary, others that the representatives are sinecurists, or that the legations are places of ease and retirement to which certain members of the Government are as it were banished. Consequently we here enumerate the important questions relating to our present foreign relations in which the welfare of the whole country is concerned, in order to draw the attention of our countrymen to the subject, as follows:—

1. Revision of the treaties.
2. Causing foreigners resident in Japan to obey the laws of the Japanese Government relating to taxation.
3. To subject foreigners resident in Japan to the laws of our country.
4. To enable foreigners to travel in the interior of Japan.
5. Permission to foreigners to trade in all parts of Japan.
6. Freedom to believe (any creed).
7. Joint occupation of Sagalien by Japanese and Russians.
8. Korean question.
9. Formosan question.
10. The having asked the Emperor of Russia to arbitrate in the matter of the detention at Yokohama of the Peruvian slave ship.
11. The Simanoseki indemnity.
12. Japanese coasting trade.
13. Allowing foreigners to acquire real property in the interior of Japan.

If a single one of these questions is not arranged to the satisfaction of our Government, the evil effects will be an affair of importance enough to affect the thirty-two millions of Japan. The persons who take on their individual shoulders these grave questions are the Representatives who are accredited to foreign countries. The office of Representative is therefore more important than that of Councillor of State, Minister or Vice-Minister. But our people think nothing of these most urgent questions. They take interest in the Formosan Question alone. What surprises us most is that officials in the discharge of important functions, with the exception of those immediately concerned in foreign affairs, are frequently ignorant of them. Is it the fault of the Government that so much carelessness exists, or the fault of the people; or is any one else responsible? We believe that it is the fault of those who do not acquaint the people with what goes on. The carelessness of the Japanese people is not the fault of the Government. In foreign countries, when matters of such importance arise, they are minutely discussed by the newspapers, who explain to the people where the right lies, and the merits of each question. This is considered the duty of the newspapers. Is it not the fault of our writers that they omit to do the same? From ignorance of the urgent nature of foreign relations arises this carelessness. Representatives are called useless sinecurists. This is a very grave matter. We shall therefore record what we have learnt, and go into the questions in their order, thus hoping to make some compensation to the Government and to the people for our negligence.

THE MALAY PENINSULA.

(“TIMES” CORRESPONDENT.)

The recent debate held in our Legislative Council here on the subject of the conduct of this Government with regard to the Native States in the Malayan Peninsula must be considered as marking an epoch in the history of that policy of which the Treaty of Pangkor formed the inauguration. At the close of Sir Andrew Clarke's speech all the members testified their hearty adherence to what had already been done and their willingness to support the continuance of a course of action which has hitherto met with signal success, and which it may prove a not uninteresting study to review, more especially as far as it regards the present relations of the Straits Settlements with the several States in the Malayan Peninsula. To begin near home, then, our fast friend the Maharajah of Johore is developing *con amore* the resources of his Province. His steam saw-mills are now constantly at work, roads are being formed in various directions, and his Highness has just secured the services of an eminent civil engineer from the North-West Provinces of India to superintend his pet hobby. The line of railway which commenced some two years ago is now being rapidly pushed forward. In Sunghie Ujong, the long-standing disputes between the Datu Klana and the Datu Banda, which at one time threatened to disturb the peace of the neighbouring States, are at length being arranged, the Datu Klana having signed an agreement with our Government, by the terms of which he binds himself to collect no illegal taxes and to refer to arbitration any disputes in which he may be concerned. His opponent has not yet signed, but there is every prospect that the matter will soon be amicably settled, the Datu Banda's son having, within the last few days, come to Singapore and proffered to the Governor his services as mediator.

The Datu Purba of Rumbow, whose differences with this same Datu Klana at one time gave a good deal of uneasiness and paralysed

The London and China 新聞紙 Telegraph.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY ON ARRIVAL OF THE P. & O. MESSAGERIES AND PACIFIC MAILS FROM CHINA, JAPAN, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, &c.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE "LONDON AND CHINA EXPRESS," A WEEKLY SUMMARY FOR THE OUTWARD MAILS.

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LONDON, MONDAY, DEC. 23, 1874.

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TIME TABLE FOR 1875.

The Table showing the Arrivals and Departures of the Mails per P. and O. and Messageries Maritimes will be issued with our first number in January. Free to Subscribers, 1s. to non-Subscribers.

Latest Advices.

PORTS.	OUTWARD.		HOMEWARD.
	From London.	Arrived out.	Received Dec. 21.
JAPAN—Yokohama	Sept. 18	Nov. 4	Nov. 10
Yedo	—	—	—
Osaka and Iliogo	" 4	Oct. 31	" 2
Hakodadi	—	—	" 4
Nagasaki	—	—	" 1
CHINA—Peking	—	—	" 4
Tientsin	—	—	" 8
Chifu	—	—	" 7
New-chwang	—	—	" 6
Hankow	" 11	" 30	" 13
Kiu-kiang	—	—	" 9
Chin-kiang	—	—	" 15
Shanghai	" 26	Nov. 11	Oct. 31
Ningpo	—	—	Nov. 16
Yoochow	Oct. 2	" 12	" 17
Formosa	—	—	" 19
Amoy	—	—	" 17
Swatow	—	—	" 18
Hong Kong	" 2	" 9	" 13
Canton	—	—	" 23
Macao	—	—	" 17
PHILIPPINES—	—	—	—
Manila	Sept. 25	" 3	" 17
COCHIN-CHINA—	—	—	—
Saigon	—	—	" 14
SIAM—Bangkok	Oct. 9	" 16	" 17
BORNEO—	—	—	—
Labuan	—	—	" 17
Sarawak	—	—	" 22
JAVA—Batavia	" 9	" 13	" 13
Samarang	—	—	" 15
Sourabaya	—	—	" 26
MALACCA STRAITS—	—	—	—
Singapore	" 16	" 22	" 26
Penang	—	—	—
CEYLON—	—	—	—
Galle	Nov. 6	Dec. 2	Dec. 2
Colombo	Oct. 30	Nov. 21	Nov. 30

THE MAILS, &c.

The French mail, bringing the above advices, was delivered, via Marseilles, on Thursday, the 24th inst., being four days early. The Pacific mail, bringing dates from Yokohama to the 9th Nov., reached London, via San Francisco, on the 21st inst. The next inward (P. and O.) mail, with advices Yokohama 17th, Shanghai 20th, Hong Kong 26th Nov., Singapore 3rd Dec., which is due, via Brindisi, on Monday next, 4th prox., left Alexandria yesterday, and will be delivered on Saturday, two days early.

List of Passengers.

PASSENGERS INWARD.

By this mail to Marseilles, per Messageries Maritimes steamer *Hoogly*, arrived Dec. 24.—From Yokohama: Messrs. Halifax, Berlingard, Pizzi, Lidier, Querin, Abegg, Pontagnac, Maillet, Jonbert, Vachalde, Cheymet, Chabert. From Shanghai: Messrs. Gillett, Skeels, Gottlich, Thorman, Deveria, Mathou, Mrs. Groth. From Hong Kong: M. Philippe, Sig. Miramela. From Saigon: Mr. Martin, M. Traque. From Singapore: Mlle. Ortiz. From Galle: Messrs. de la Aucherie, Bourchet, Beauvoit, Cannell, Roberts, Mrs. Birch.

PASSENGERS OUTWARD.

Per P. and O. steamer *Mongolia*, from Southampton, Dec. 17.—To Singapore: Miss Cook. To Ceylon: Mr. Achlow, Mr. J. P. Rose.
Per P. and O. steamer *Malta*, from Venice, Dec. 25.—To Galle: Mr. J. A. Macconockie.
Per P. and O. steamer *Malta*, from Brindisi, Dec. 23.—To Yokohama: Mr. Lockhart.
To Hong Kong: Mr. C. Braun. To Singapore: Mr. E. McAllister. To Ceylon: Mr. G. Russell, Mr. M. Drysdale.

Per P. and O. steamer *Bakhra*, from Southampton, Dec. 31.—To Hong Kong: Mrs. F. Kinahin, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Butler, Surg. A. H. L'Estrange, Mr. M. Pinl. To Shanghai: Mr. W. J. Tucker. To Singapore: Mr. M. Armstrong, Mr. Paterson. To Ceylon: Mr. and Mrs. Heathcote, Mr. M. H. Foster, Mr. A. Stevenson.
Per P. and O. steamer *Samatra*, from Brindisi, Jan. 11.—To Hong Kong: Mr. S. Hughes, Mr. Kofod. To Ceylon: Dr. P. Goldschmidt.
Per P. and O. steamer from Southampton, Jan. 14.—To Ceylon: Mr. S. le Cocq, Mr. E. Lemprien, Mrs. Gow, Mr. Chamberlain and friend.
Per P. and O. steamer from Brindisi, Jan. 25.—To Hong Kong: Mr. Robschiff.

Per French steamer *Ada*, Jan. 3.—To Hong Kong: Mrs. Bell, Mr. Guillemin. To Shanghai: Mrs. C. King, Mr. E. Hunt, Mr. P. H. Sichel, Mr. O. Sichel. To Galle: Mr. Buchanan, Mr. E. H. Hurst.
Per French steamer *Hoogly*, Jan. 17.—To Yokohama: Mr. Boeke. To Hong Kong: Mr. Hillier, Mr. Duval, Mr. Wanecke. To Shanghai: Mr. G. Kohl. To Galle: Mr. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Canque. To Batavia: Mr. C. Winn.
Per French steamer *Irakoudy*, Jan. 31.—To Galle: Mr. and Mrs. Gussersomang.
Per French steamer *Meikong*, Feb. 28.—To Shanghai: Mr. M. R. Mackellan, Mr. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Jerdein.

Per *China*, from San Francisco, Dec. 1.—For Yokohama: John L. Geiger, Gustav van Velsen, Chas. F. Woodhull, Horton Yates, John Whitney and wife, J. M. Staples, S. T. Curry, Mr. and Mrs. Deane, Capt. R. S. Corning, R. S. Schwabe, T. Sakai. For Shanghai: Lieut.-Colonel Wm. Brown, E. Beach, J. C. S. Galby, P. Perado Faret, Chu Him Sang, You Loung, Arthur Davenport and wife. For Hong Kong: John Clark, Patrick Clark. For Hong Kong: Rev. J. B. Fraser, wife, and three children, Joel Blakesley, N. Burnham.

Summary of News from the Far East.

JAPAN.
YOKOHAMA.

The present French mail brings advices from this port to the 10th Nov.; the French mail from London, Sept. 11, arrived out on the 1st Nov., and the following P. and O. mail of Sept. 18 was received on the 4th Nov. The following summary of news is from the *Japan Herald*:—

The Formosa difficulty is settled. From the latest telegrams received it appears that Japan demanded two million taels indemnity as the price upon which it would consent to evacuate Formosa. This was point blank refused to be agreed to, and Okubo broke off the negotiations, and made preparations to return. Subsequently negotiations were re-opened, when China offered Tls. 500,000, which sum was accepted, and an agreement entered into that the Japanese should quit Formosa by the 20th December, at which date the indemnity money is to be paid. The pusillanimous conduct of China in thus submitting to this squeeze on the part of Japan is here universally condemned, as exhibiting abject cowardice. Japan will naturally exult in getting out of the serious trouble to which her bellicose policy was leading her. Amongst foreigners the news of the pacific solution of the difficulties between the two countries has been received with much satisfaction.

The 3rd November was the twenty-fourth birthday of the Mikado. At nine o'clock in the morning a grand review took place in the drilling-ground near the Gaimusho, Tokio; about 3,000 soldiers were paraded. The artillery fired a salute to the Emperor. The Japanese military band played the Japanese National Anthem. His Majesty, accompanied by the Princes Higashi Fushimi and Arisgawa no Miya, was present in full dress. Minister Saigo and other high officials of the Government were present. The weather was delightful. The troops appear to have been admirably drilled. Several foreign ladies and gentlemen were present. The day was generally kept as a holiday among the native portion of the population, and the native town was decorated with flags and lanterns in honour of the occasion. Most of the Government offices shone resplendent (with the notable exception of the Post-office), whilst the railroad deserves special mention, as arches of evergreens were erected at all the entrances. The Kenrei held a reception in the morning, and in the evening he entertained at dinner the Consular body, the commanding officers of the foreign men-of-war and troops, and the principal Japanese officials. A banquet also took place in Tokio, at which the diplomatic body were present. In connection with the Mikado's birthday, a grand festival was held at the Gaimusho, Tokio, at which the diplomatic body were present. In connection with the Mikado's birthday, a grand festival was held at the Gaimusho, Tokio, at which the diplomatic body were present.

tion with the salute fired at midday, we may mention a rather amusing incident, which suggests a great want of knowledge on the part of the Japanese commanding officer of the etiquette of saluting. On occasions such as the present, it is not customary for the vessels of the nationality whose *flag* it is to return the salutes which are fired by the other men-of-war present in harbour, it being understood that the compliment will be returned by them on any similar festive occasion; but to-day, after the firing at noon was finished, the Japanese began again, and to the astonishment of the initiated, hoisted the flags of the different men-of-war, and laboriously returned their salutes, thus wasting a great deal of unnecessary powder.

The burning of the silkworms' egg cards (to the extent of nearly half a million) has ceased, and the market has been reopened; but the artificial scarcity thus created does not appear to have realised the hopes of the authors of the scheme, as prices are still very low. It is stated that while the notice prohibiting sales was still in force, and during which time no business was supposed to be done, one of the merchants was discovered to have sold 1,200 cards to a foreigner, which, although causing much astonishment amongst the clique, has been settled by the amount received being invested in cards to be burnt.

The protracted case of Davison and Co. v. the Oriental Banking Corporation, which occupied several days, came to a conclusion on the 17th Oct. The counsel on both sides addressed the jury at length, and his Honour lucidly summed up. The jury then retired. After an absence of an hour and a quarter they returned a verdict that defendants were liable for all the charges on the goods landed for them; that they were also liable for the charges on the goods transferred from the Chartered Mercantile Bank since the date of the transfer; but that they were not liable for the commission on the sale of them. His Honour said that this verdict would carry costs. Mr. Dickens stated his intention of appealing.

We learn that an action for libel is impending between Mr. W. G. Howell, the editor and proprietor of the *Japan Mail*, and Messrs. Moss and Anglin, of the *Japan Gazette*, for a letter, under the signature of "Fair Play," which appeared in the last named newspaper. Mr. Howell has, through his legal adviser, called for a retraction and an apology for the statements in the letter in question, with the alternative of the proprietors of the *Gazette* being made defendants in an action at law. No apology has been rendered.

We learn that at Saghalien the Japanese have succumbed to the rigour of the climate and the aggressions of the Russians, for the island is being evacuated. Shortly there will be neither a Japanese official nor a Japanese settler left. The island will henceforth be regarded as a Russian possession. Joint occupation appears to have terminated.

Yoshida, the newly-appointed Minister to the United States, left by the Pacific mail of the 9th Nov. A banquet, at which both Mr. Bingham and General Van Buren were present, was given to him previous to his departure.

In view of the late change of views in Korea, a Japanese Embassy has been despatched there from this country. The members of it were, previous to their departure, received by the Mikado.

The athletic sports meeting took place on the 30th and 31st Oct., but the races have, in consequence of unfavourable weather, been postponed until the 10th, 11th, and 12th Nov.

The question of Municipal Government is being agitated, and a meeting has been held on the subject.

The late Tycoon's brother, Mimbutoyo, has joined the army as a lieutenant.

The wife of Iwakura, well known as the head of the late Embassy, has just died.

The following items of intelligence are taken from the *Japan Mail*:-

A remarkable memorial which has been addressed to the Mikado has appeared in the *Shimbun Zasshi*. While ostensibly displaying a desire to advocate the resumption of by-gone usages, it is clearly intended to enforce the reasoning which, like the wit of an epigram or a woman's postscript, discloses its presumed motive in its ending. If its authenticity may be relied on it affords an unsuspected view of the real attitude of the *samurai* class, who, so far from desirating a peaceful policy, are presumed to have been at the root of the movement which led to present complications with China. It is not impossible that the writers contemplate the creation of a large standing army, drawn from another social stratum than their own, with some measure of apprehension, and that they seek to discourage its creation rather from a fear of the consequences to themselves than from true patriotism. But whatever the motives of the memorial it possesses unusual interest.

Dr. J. F. Elmore, accredited by the Government of Peru Charge d'Affaires in Japan, arrived in Yokohama by the French mail on the 1st Nov. Dr. Elmore, who, it will be remembered, accompanied Captain Garcia and assisted in negotiating the treaties of Peru with Japan and China, purposes to establish his Legation at Yedo. We understand that Dr. Elmore has already secured a suitable establishment there with this view.

A report from Kioto states that the boiler of a Japanese steamer plying upon Lake Biwa has exploded, and that all the

passengers and crew, numbering 100, were either killed or drowned. It is to be hoped that the extent of the catastrophe has been magnified.

CHINA.

NEWCHWANG.

A correspondent writes:-

The Taoutai died on 21st Oct., of aneurism of the heart. *On dit* that his "farming of this district" was at a heavy loss, and the anxiety consequent thereon caused his death.

From Korea we learn that the Government is really in the hands of the rightful sovereign, a young man of about twenty-four years, and the trade with China has been resumed, under strict conditions. At the mart, five days' voyage from this, business has actually been done in piece goods, such as heavy gray shirtings, white shirtings, &c.; but the rates are not very encouraging, and the bartering is under difficulties. Korea is only about seventy-five miles from the mart, where there is a boundary, through which one reaches the neutral ground between China and its closely guarded frontier. It is death to attempt a passage, as the Koreans are very jealous of their territory. But if a foreign Power were desirous to enter the forbidden country, it would be the simplest matter possible to march 1,000 well equipped men from this port to the capital, and in twenty days foreigners would be masters of that wonderful country, which boasts of having withstood France, Germany, America, and even England (as the *General Sherman* was taken to be of this nationality). But I suppose China would object to her soil being made the highway to a conquest of Korea.

It is very cold here already; four days' strong north wind; thermometer 26 deg.!

SHANGHAI.

The present mail brings advices from this port to the 13th November; the French mail from London Sept. 25 was received on the 11th November. The following summary of news is from the *North China Herald*:-

The s.s. *Appin*, which arrived on Nov. 7th, brought as passengers his Excellency Okubo, the Envoy Extraordinary for the settlement of the Chino-Japanese difficulty in *re* Formosa, and his suite. As they passed under the stern of H.I.J.M. flagship *Rio-jo-kan* in Chefoo Harbour, the sailors manned the yards and gave three hearty cheers, wonderfully *à l'Anglaise*, while the guns of the ironclad thundered a parting salute. The Ambassador, with several members of his suite, called on the Taoutai; his Excellency paid the Arsenal a visit, when he was conducted through the works by Hung Taoutai.

We hear that in consequence of the amicable settlement of the Chino-Japan dispute, the departure of Admiral Shadwell from these shores will be hastened. We are sure the residents in Shanghai will bid the gallant admiral and his officers a cordial farewell, and wish them a safe and prosperous voyage.

The admiral will probably leave Shanghai in the *Modeste*, to rejoin his flagship outside Woosung. The *Iron Duke* will proceed to Hong Kong on her homeward voyage after the arrival of the next English mail, which is expected on Sunday. The *Modeste*, after a short cruise, will return to Shanghai for the winter. The *Dwarf*, we learn further, also goes to Hong Kong, calling at Ningpo and Amoy. We observe by the home papers just received, that the *Dwarf* and *Avon* have completed more than three years' service, both having been commissioned on the 18th of July, 1871. After the arrival of the mail, the *Swinger* proceeds up the Yangtze, to visit the various ports.

The brig *St. Francois* has been removed from the Hongkew Wharf to the Pootung shore, where she is beached in a favourable position for effecting the necessary preliminary repairs before docking. A suit for damages has been entered in H.B.M. Supreme Court against the *Caudor Castle*, and a warrant formally issued for the arrest of the steamer. Bonds to the amount of \$40,000 having been entered into by the agents, Messrs. Adamson, Bell and Co., she will not suffer any detention. The amount claimed by the *St. Francois* is £15,220,000.

The resuscitation or reorganisation of the Philharmonic Society is likely to prove more than can this season be accomplished by the gentlemen who have interested themselves in the matter, but we learn that M. Remusat is busying himself with a view to supplying the deficiency. The indefatigable *maestro* hopes to give a concert on the 17th inst., in the Masonic Hall, and we understand will be supported by recent acquisitions to the musical amateurs of Shanghai, as well as by former favourites. Should the first be a success, which it no doubt will be, both on the score of merit and because of the threatened dearth of entertainments of this description, it is M. Remusat's intention to organise a concert, if possible, once a month during the remainder of the cool season.

The Shanghai Gymnasium Committee offer inducements to men to go into training again, by announcing a day's athletic sports. A meeting of the Paper Hunt Club was held, when the Club was re-organised for the approaching season.

A Naval Court of Enquiry sat at the British Vice-Consulate

to investigate the circumstances attending the loss of the British ship *Lucerne*, by striking on the Ariadne Rock, on the 23rd October last. Commander Buckle, of H.M.S. *Frolic*, was president. After a most searching investigation, the Court came to the opinion that Captain Russell was guilty of an error in judgment in not dropping an anchor immediately the proximity of the rock was reported to him by the first mate, and in attempting to wear the ship in so light a wind, and with the current setting so strongly towards the rock; and they furthermore expressed an opinion that pilots should not quit a vessel sailing northward from Shanghai until she was clear of the dangers in the vicinity of the mouth of the Yangtze. The captain's certificate was suspended for two months, those of the first and second officers being returned to them.

The wreck of the *Lucerne*, which was sold at auction on Friday, realised—for the hull Tls. 303, and for the cargo Tls. 260.

Some five or six weeks ago Mr. W. Gray, of the I.M. Customs, was bitten slightly by a Chinese cur, but the wound being superficial, quickly healed, and he felt no inconvenience from it. On Sunday, however, he became unwell, and on Monday morning, while at his home in Honkew, he was seized with unmistakable symptoms of hydrophobia. The paroxysms increased with awful rapidity and violence, and it became necessary to remove the unfortunate man to the General Hospital, where he died.

Several changes have lately occurred among the Customs Commissioners. Mr. Drew, recently arrived from home, left last week to take charge at Chefoo, where Mr. Hughes had been acting vice Mr. H. O. Brown transferred to Takow; Mr. J. H. Hart left by the *Dragon* for Foochow; and Mr. Detring is expected by next English mail, to relieve Mr. White, at Ningpo, the latter gentleman going home.

We regret to learn that the announcement has been received by telegraph of the death, on 15th October, of E. C. Bowra, Esq., Commissioner of Imperial Maritime Customs, who was enjoying in England a well-earned vacation after his exertions as a representative of Chinese interests at the Vienna Exhibition. Death is reported to have occurred suddenly, from heart disease. Mr. Bowra was an official of rare energy and ability, and the service to which he belonged suffers a serious loss by the premature termination of his career.

A party of six German gentlemen, five of whom were astronomers, the sixth being a photographer, passed through Shanghai the other day, on the way to Chefoo, to observe the approaching transit of Venus. The head of the party is Dr. Adolf, and the second Dr. Valentiner, of the Leyden Observatory. The party is to act in conjunction with one from the United States, which has selected Nagasaki as its point of observation, and with a Dutch expedition to Mauritius. A very complete equipment has been taken to Chefoo for the purposes of the expedition; and the German war steamer *Arcona*, which was lately reported as having arrived at Chefoo from Japan, has been placed at the disposition of the party, with the view principally of maintaining rapid and direct intercourse with Nagasaki.

A paragraph in the papers received by the last French mail informed us that a Russian expedition had just been despatched from Irkutsk to Uliassutai, Gobi, and the adjoining provinces of Western China, to inquire into the state of the Mahomedan Dungan rebellion, and to ascertain whether the western tea trade could be directed to the Irtysh river. The party has just passed through Shanghai in pursuance of its mission. It consists of Captain Sosnovsky, of the General Staff; Captain Matosovsky, of the engineers; Dr. Piasetsky; Mr. Boiarsky, photographer; three Cossacks, and two interpreters. The party came from Kiachta via Peking, and having procured the necessary passports for the projected journey at the latter place, came on to Shanghai, where it has been located at the Oriental Hotel. Some of its members left for Hankow by the *Fusiyama* last week, and the remainder followed by the *Fire Queen* on Sunday. After reaching Hankow the party will go up the Han River, and proceed westward, with the objects indicated above.

There was a fairly brisk auction at the Horse Bazaar, and some thirty-two ponies were sold at prices ranging from Tls. 200 to Tls. 15. Tourterelle was knocked out at Tls. 200; Bar Sells, Ravensdale, and Lothario brought about Tls. 150 apiece; Seabird, Andante, Blucher, and Godolphin came next at about Tls. 100. Few of the better racing ponies were sold, however. Sinecure changed owners by private bargain.

The following items are from the *Courier* :—

The Notification which—in terms of an advertisement in Portuguese which has appeared in the *Daily News*—the subjects of that Power interested in opium are invited to read on the gate of the Portuguese Consulate to which it is affixed—is, we learn, to the effect that all Portuguese dealing in opium are henceforth to give delivery of it to (Chinese) purchasers on the premises of the Portuguese seller; after which its being the property of the (Chinese) purchaser shall admit of no question, and should it be seized on the streets of the Settlement on account of any alleged non-compliance with Chinese fiscal regulations, it will be a matter of purely Chinese concern. This measure has doubtless been suggested by the amount of trouble recently given both to the Municipal, the Chinese, and Portuguese authorities by Portuguese subjects who, pro-

fessedly dealing in opium, whenever the opium guild detectives made a seizure in our streets of opium sent from the houses of these Portuguese, came forward and reclaimed it on the ground that it was still foreign property, and as such not liable to the Chinese tax, for the evasion of which it was seized.

A cricket match was played between 11 of the club and 11 of H.M.S. *Modeste*. The gallant gentlemen in blue were very decisively beaten, scoring only 58 and 47 to the club's 109 and 128. Mr. Aubert scored the handsome figure of 61.

The recently constituted "Shanghai Pilot Company" has ceased to exist, owing, we hear, to internal dissensions. Half-a-dozen of the former members of the Independence Pilot Company have re-organised themselves under that style and title; the other members of the defunct company will, we suppose, be like Hal of the Wynd, and "fecht for their ain hand."

OUTRAGE ON MISSIONARIES AT HOOCHEW.

The *Courier* states that on Sunday, the 1st instant, the Revs. Messrs. Meadows and Douthwaite, two missionaries belonging to what is known as the China Inland Mission, were attacked by a Chinese mob, and forced to fly for their lives, while their property was destroyed or carried off, at the well-known *foo* city of Hoochow, at the southern extremity of the Taihoo Lake, about 100 miles to the S.W. of Shanghai and some forty miles north and west of Hangchow, the provincial capital of Chekiang. It appears that in the course of the past year the members of the Inland Mission, who have their headquarters at Hangchow, sent some of their native preachers to preach and circulate books in Hoochow. Premises were taken, in which for two months a couple of native preachers, and the wife of one of them, who acted as a Biblewoman, pursued their labours without molestation. Then the *literati* began to notice them, and by and by the district *tepa* brought a message from their landlord that they were to depart at once, no reason being given. The preachers wrote to the Mission at Hangchow; and having after some difficulty obtained an interview with the Taotai there, which resulted in nothing, Messrs. Meadows and Douthwaite started for Hoochow, arriving on the 31st ult. at the Mission Station.

After paying a visit to the Prefect, they found a crowd round the house of the married preacher, who was ill, and the inmates of the place had great difficulty in withstanding their violence, and had to resort to various expedients. At last they were compelled to escape by a back way, while the mob wreaked their will on the place. The missionaries reached the Yamen of the Chehsien by boat, between eight and nine p.m., and urged that the sick man and his wife, who remained behind, should be sent for. But this was declared to be impossible until the following day, and meanwhile the missionaries were given wretched lodging, without the means of keeping themselves warm. Next day the sick man and his wife were brought over, and informed the missionaries that the mission station had been completely sacked. Messrs. Meadows and Douthwaite, distrusting the faithless promises of the Chinese local authorities, now resolved to go to Shanghai. On the 5th inst., therefore, after four days' fruitless negotiation, with a view to the punishment of the offenders, Messrs. Meadows and Douthwaite left Hoochow, and on the 7th inst. arrived at Shanghai.

"THE TIMES" CORRESPONDENT.

The correspondent of *The Times*, writing from Shanghai, says :—

The sudden relief from national anxiety when war so lately appeared to be all but inevitable will, it is to be feared, have an unfortunate effect in discouraging the Chinese Executive from pursuing various objects of a progressive nature which they had begun to regard with favour; and it is not improbable that what little has already been effected in this direction may incur disrepute and suspicion. I have already reported, I think, the opening of telegraphic communication between the city of Foochow and its foreign anchorage at Pagoda Islands, a trifling distance along a river's bank of some twelve miles; and I then ventured a conjecture that the line might possibly be extended so as to cross the Formosa channel and connect the island with the main land. This anticipation has not been realised, but a construction of a more startling character, if taken in the light of an innovation, has been commenced since I wrote, in the shape of a telegraph line overlaid from Foochow to Amoy, a distance of about 170 to 175 miles. This line, even when war threatened, was reported to have attracted popular suspicion, and now that peace is declared, and the urgent need for opening it has passed by, it is more than likely that the efforts of its opponents will be redoubled. In this connection it is worth while mentioning a story which is abroad to the effect that the Russian Government have made the construction of the above lines of telegraph pretext for demanding the concession of a line from Kiachta to Peking, the Chinese Government having pledged themselves some time ago to admit Russia to telegraphic privileges in the event of these being ever conceded to any other foreign Power within Chinese territory; and it is rumoured that the Chinese are endeavouring to escape from the dilemma by repudiating the acts of the provincial authorities at Foochow, as having been ventured upon without reference to the central Government at Peking.

A new missionary difficulty has, I regret to say, just cropped up, the victims in this case being once more members of the China Inland or "Taylor" Mission, a name which may be remembered in connection with the Yangchow outrage of 1868. Two gentlemen of this mission, Messrs. Meadows and Douthwaite, had, it seems, established themselves in Hoochow, a city of Che-Kiang Province, conspicuous for its wealth and literary pretensions, and about 100 miles distant from Shanghai.

Preaching premises had been quietly secured in the usual way through the intervention of friendly natives, but, the suspicion of the literary classes having been after a while aroused, efforts were made, though without success, to terrify the Chinese implicated into cancelling the lease of the premises and ejecting its foreign occupants from the neighbourhood. The customary proceedings followed. Inflammatory placards were circulated, a mob collected around the house, the missionaries appealed for protection to the local authorities; some of these affected absence on duty, others pretended to be ignorant of what was doing, others again evaded direct responsibility, while the missionary applicants were meanwhile bandied from one *yamen* to another until hours had been wasted, and when at last they returned to their temporary home it was only to find it gutted, and to be themselves violently assaulted. Fortunately, they managed to make their escape, and they have since laid their complaint before the Consul at Shanghai. Whether he will be able to procure them redress is doubtful, for the locality is only accessible through a series of narrow canals, and our Consuls nowadays are not likely to forget the adverse opinions pronounced upon their intervention in the Yang-chow and Formosa cases. There can be no doubt that if missionaries choose to take their lives in their hands, and, venturing beyond Consular control, proceed to commit acts calculated to annoy or outrage the feelings of the people, they can only have themselves to thank for any untoward consequences which may follow, and they certainly cannot expect their own officials to have recourse to extreme measures for their indemnification.

HONG KONG.

Our advices by the present mail extend to the 19th Nov.; no later mail from London had been received since the 9th Nov. The following items of news are from the *Daily Press* :—

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 16th Nov., the Chief Justice presiding, in the absence of the Governor. The following protest from the Hon. P. Ryrie was put in :—"Notice having been duly given, I, Phineas Ryrie, a member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, protest against a vote of said Council, sanctioning the expenditure of a sum of \$4,112.00 on the fire brigade." A declaration was appended to the protest, which ran as follows :—

1st. That clause 5 of Fire Brigade Ordinance No. 4, of 1868, has been contravened inasmuch as that on the report of a fire being made at the central station on the morning of the 23rd September, 1874, the brigade was neither mustered nor turned out with their engines and all necessary implements as provided by said clause.

2nd. That the aforesaid clause provides also for the framing of regulations and that no such regulations have been made.

3rd. That the President of the Council was unable or unwilling to say, in reply to a question put, who was the officer in command of the fire brigade.

4th. That the present management of the brigade is faulty; a proper fire commission, such as exists in Shanghai and other places, should be appointed, it being most undesirable that one person only should have the control of the expenditure, as from mistaken economy on his part much damage may result; and I am informed that a valuable engine, the property of the public, has been rendered almost useless in consequence of there not being a properly qualified and careful engineer to attend to it constantly.

5th. That the drill of the brigade is not such as to make it an efficient one in event of a fire, much more being needed to that end than merely turning out the force once a month, and feebly pumping water out of and into the harbour for the space of a quarter of an hour. Such instruction can never fit men to cope successfully with the difficulties to be encountered at a serious fire.

A lengthy discussion ensued, resulting ultimately in the form of Mr. Ryrie's motion being amended as follows :—"The Hon. Phineas Ryrie, after complaining of the conduct of the Captain Superintendent of Police on the night of the typhoon, and of the refusal of the Government to institute a public inquiry, after a petition had been addressed to his Excellency the Governor praying that an inquiry should be made, moves," &c. The Colonial Secretary then read the following memorandum from his Excellency respecting the Fire Brigade :—

The complaints now made against the efficiency and organisation of the Fire Brigade are the first that have come to my knowledge either publicly or privately. The brigade, as at present constituted, was handed down to me by my predecessor as being in a most efficient state, and until the present time I have never heard any other opinion, or of any want of promptitude when its services were required. No fire has occurred during the last two and a half years which was not speedily extinguished. Under these circumstances, I have seen no necessity for interfering with an establishment which worked so satisfactorily. And, moreover, as the services rendered by the brigade were to a great extent voluntary, I deemed interference or new rules to be injudicious and unnecessary. I know of no shortcoming on the part of the brigade as a body, nor on the part of those in charge of it.

Nevertheless, I shall direct an inquiry as to whether the rules applicable to the brigade can be amended, and also with a view to a reduction of the cost, whether the charge to the public bears an equitable proportion to that borne by the insurance offices, who derive so large a benefit from the existence of an efficient fire brigade. I shall be glad to have some specific charge of inefficiency before any steps are taken to disturb a system which has hitherto worked so harmoniously, and as far as my knowledge extends efficiently.

The Council then went into committee on the estimates, and on the vote for \$3,620,000, under "Educational," the Colonial Treasurer said it was proposed to increase this vote by \$1,000. It was proposed to reprint part of Dr. Williams' Tonic Dictionary,

and it was stated that the work could not be undertaken without aid from Government. It was proposed at first for the Government to take 250 copies, which would have entailed an expenditure of \$1,600. The proposition of Dr. Eitel, who is to get out the work, was then referred to Mr. Stewart, the Inspector of Schools, who, in reply, stated that such a dictionary was indispensable. It was recommended that a grant of \$1,000 should be made to Dr. Eitel. The motion was carried after some discussion.

Mr. Rowett moved that the monthly grant made to the Italian Convent of \$80 should be increased to \$130, but the motion was withdrawn on a promise that enquiries should be made by the Government. The remaining items of the Estimates were passed without discussion, and the Ordinance to control recruiting in the Colony for the service of Foreign States was carried. The Council then adjourned.

The following Bills were read the first time :—Ordinance enacted by the Governor of Hong Kong, with the advice of the Legislative Council thereof, to apply a sum not exceeding \$730,000 to the public service of the year 1875. An Ordinance enacted by the Governor of Hong Kong, with the advice of the Legislative Council thereof, to provide for the security of properties vested in the official trustee, by virtue of which Ordinance all trustees, executors, administrators, or other persons having moneys on trust shall be at liberty, on filing an affidavit describing the instrument creating the trust, to pay the same with the privity of the official trustee into the Colonial Treasury in trust to attend the orders of the Court.

The following letter from Her Majesty's Consul at Canton with reference to the capture and pillage of the steamer *Spark*, has been forwarded to us for publication :—

H.M. Consulate, Canton, 12th November, 1874.

Sir,—With reference to the capture and pillage of the steamer *Spark* by pirates, the murders of the master, G. Brady, and the purser, Felix Ferries, and the dangerous wounding of Mr. Mundy, a passenger, and others on the 22nd of August last, I have the honour to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that every effort was made by the Canton Government to arrest the guilty parties, and fourteen in all were captured and brought to trial, and of these six, having confessed their guilt,—

Liu A-wu, Chang Te Hsiu, Liang To Ching, Kwo Ken Hao, Wu Ch'ai Kwei, and Wu Kwo Yu, were executed on the 3rd, and two, Ho Hsin K'wen and Hwang A-lien, on the 6th instant.

Fan Afeng, who died from wounds received at his capture, was also beheaded.

The heads of these criminals will be exposed in the usual manner as a warning to all.

On the other persons in custody sentences have not yet been passed, there being doubts respecting the identity of one or two of them, or whether they were engaged in the piracy.

In reporting these executions, his Excellency the Acting Viceroy informs me that no reward can be accepted for the apprehension of the pirates, the police having done no more than their duty.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

B. ROBERTSON, Consul.

The Hon. J. Gardiner Austin, Colonial Secretary, Hong Kong.

The following account, duly certified, of the average amount of bank notes in circulation in Hong Kong during the month ending the 31st October, 1874, is published in the *Gazette* :—

Banks.	Average Amount
Oriental Bank Corporation	\$683,703
Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China	678,254
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China	509,617
Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	1,396,879
Total	\$3,268,453

The purchasers of the British ship *Mindanao* succeeded in lifting her, by means of four junks, from in front of the P.M.S. Co.'s wharf, where she was sunk, but she grounded again in front of the east corner of the harbour-master's office.

The British steamship *Yesso*, from Coast ports, struck a large junk, which ran into her port side before the paddle box. It appears that the *Yesso* on her arrival steamed alongside the barque *Christianshaven* to discharge cargo, but finding this to be impracticable on account of the latter being so low in the water, she sheared off again to make fast to a buoy. Just then the steamship *Altona* came up on the other side, and was also making for the same buoy. The *Yesso* then had to stop. Just at that time a large junk tacking from Kowloon side to Hong Kong bore down on the *Yesso's* bows. The *Yesso* could only go one way, and that was ahead, as the *Altona* was on one side and the *Christianshaven* on the other, and if she backed astern she would have run into the barque *Ellen*. She therefore had to remain stationary. The junk was hailed, but she took no notice. She could have easily eased off sheet and run down between, but she ran clean into the guard of the paddle wheel. The junk's mast went over the side and her bows were completely smashed. She immediately filled and sank below the Canton steamer wharf. No lives were lost, as several boats took all the hands off.

SIAM.

BANGKOK.

The following items are from the *Siam Weekly Advertiser* :—

One of the members of the Privy Council has been found guilty of alleged embezzlement, which act is a violation of the solemn oath of office, binding each of its members to loyalty to the Sovereign, and fidelity alike to the King and to the best interests of the State. For this offence, it is said, H.E. Phaya Ah-han-boriraks, Acting Minister of Agriculture, has been deposed from his position as a member of the Privy Council. In one instance it is said Phaya Ah-han-boriraks and his subaltern Kunrut-ak-saun, have misappropriated over \$325,152, and that the accounts have been tampered with. The Government, it seems, is so well satisfied of criminality that his Majesty has deposed this prominent nobleman from his position as a member of the Privy Council. The case is still under investigation, and no little anxiety is felt as to the amount of fraud and criminality that may grow out of the revelations of this case.

The time has come when dishonesty must be put down efficiently and persistently, and that virtue and honesty, domestic, social, political, and commercial, must be created, fostered, and perpetuated.

Some time since the Siamese Government issued a proclamation forbidding children under fifteen years of age engaging in legalised gambling, and specifying certain sports that they must not engage in on the public thoroughfares. Another proclamation has just made its appearance making it criminal for them to engage in games of chance.

The Lighthouse discussion has at last culminated in the completion of a lighthouse, to guide the mariner in directing his course over the bar of the Chow Phya River in unfavourable weather. H.E. Chow Phya Bhanuwongs Mahah Kosahitbaudee, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, has issued a proclamation on this subject, the purport of which is that the lighthouse is now ready for use, and will flash forth its light at night for the benefit of Government and trading vessels passing to and fro over the bar on and after the ninth of November (1874).

The Presbytery of Siam held its session in the Chapel, at the Presbyterian Mission compound, Bangnamch'on, Bangkok, Oct. 30th. The Rev. N. A. McDonald preached the annual sermon.

The report of the Siamese commissioners Phaya Anuchit-chahn-chai and Phaya Kalahome-rahch-saunah, who were sent by H.M. the Supreme King to the province Talik to investigate the complaints of insecurity that came from that region, shows a fearful state of insecurity to both life and property in that region. Travellers have been waylaid, fired upon, and mercilessly plundered. Of these some were killed and others were wounded. Peaceful and industrious citizens have been assailed by marauders; they, too, have been fired upon, and their houses heartlessly plundered, and they have had to flee, and return to find themselves impoverished and compelled to start anew in life to accumulate the means of livelihood.

The report of these commissioners shows the great need of honest, efficient Government officials, and police, and reliable guarantees that the lives, the property, the persons and the lawful pursuits of all law-abiding citizens shall be sacredly protected. This is the great political problem for the present King of Siam to solve. If H.M. succeeds in regenerating the Siamese Government, creating political honesty in all departments of Siamese officialdom, and in securing real reliable protection for all his people in all his dominions, in all their lawful pursuits and possessions, he will have achieved a great and glorious work, and will well deserve a prominent place in the history of this century.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

SINGAPORE.

Our files from the Straits have not reached us by this opportunity.

Commercial Report.

(For dates see first page.)

IMPORTS.

YOKOHAMA.—During the interval there had been a weaker tendency in all descriptions of imports, the only exceptions to the general dullness having been a continued inquiry for 28/32 Yarn, and more demand for Cotton Sateens and Blankets. In the market for metals there had been a little more inquiry for Nail-rods, but at no improvement in prices. Occasional sales of suitable sizes of Bar Iron were reported, though quotations for most descriptions were quite nominal.

HIogo-OSAKA.—Deliveries of goods had been fairly large, and considerable activity was apparent early in the month. The market had, however, been freely supplied, and at closing there was somewhat less animation, with declining quotations for many articles.

CHEFOO.—Messrs. Wilson, Cornabe and Co.'s Circular says:—Our last was issued on the 1st ult., and since that date our market for imports has been rather inanimate. Cotton Goods: Grey Shirtings and T-Cloths have been saleable to a small extent, but rates are still under the equivalent of Shanghai values. Drills and Fancy Cottons have not been inquired after. Metals: Both Iron and Lead have been dull of sale, and rates have, if anything, a downward tendency.

SHANGHAI.—Dullness continued to prevail in the market, and very little business had been done.

FOOCHOW.—The only sale of piece goods reported \$1.72½ per piece. Lead is quoted at \$8.25 per picul.

MANILA.—The market for Plain Staples continued very quiet, and, with few exceptions, quotations remained unaltered. Coloured goods of suitable styles and assortments were in good demand, and values exhibit an upward tendency.

BANGKOK.—A fair business had been done at the previously ruling prices.

EXPORTS.

TEA.

YOKOHAMA.—The settlements had only amounted to 1,700 piculs, whilst supplies had come in steadily; prices show no alteration, so far, and the market closed quiet but firm. The barque New Republic sailed for New York on the 1st Nov. with a tea cargo of 557,801 lbs. from this port. The barque Jessica, also for New York, having arrived from Hiogo, was loading.

HIogo-OSAKA.—Business had continued on a moderate scale, without much change to note in prices, which, however, had hardened somewhat, while at the same time the quality of the Teas on offer was daily growing poorer. Settlements and arrivals to the 28th Oct. were on nearly the same scale, the former being reported at 6,000 piculs. Total Settlements for the season to date piculs 41,950, against piculs 18,500 for the corresponding period last year. Stocks estimated at 1,800 piculs. The British barque Jessica had sailed with 313,645 lbs. for New York, via Yokohama, filling at the latter port.

SHANGHAI.—Black: Settlements had been chiefly in the common kinds at Tls. 15 to 16½, being unchanged rates. Settlements—3,871 chests, at Tls. 14 to 20; stock, 1,950 chests. Green: There was a fair business done early in the week, but the demand at the close was very slack, and Teamen seemed more anxious to sell. The stock had increased. Export to Great Britain to date (exclusive of lost cargoes):—

	1874-1875.		1873-1874.
Black	62,397,923 lbs.	against	54,563,376 lbs.
Green	6,657,930 "	"	6,998,516 "
	69,055,853		61,561,892

FOOCHOW.—Messrs. Westall, Galton, and Co.'s Weekly Letter says: There is but little to report. During the past week the business has been confined to the purchase of some 6,000 chests of Congou, and some trifling settlements of Oolong. Congou: Rates are without any material alteration, but purchases show better value than settlements of the previous week. The market closes with nothing doing. Sou-chong: Only two chops have found buyers. Oolong: The settlements have been confined to Formosa kinds, and appear better value than late purchases of the district sorts. Flowery Pekos: One chop of very common has changed hands. Scented Teas: No transactions. The export to Great Britain, the Continent of Europe, and the Cape of Good Hope amounts to 48,451,790 lbs., against 44,672,209 lbs. at the same time last year. To America, 864,675 lbs., against 2,237,895 lbs. To the Colonies, 11,161,355 lbs., against 11,415,955 lbs. last year.

SILK.

SHANGHAI.—Since the 5th Nov. the purchases of silk had not exceeded 400 bales, of which 250 bales were re-reels chiefly of common and market classes, which had been taken at slightly lower prices, viz., Tls. 330 to Tls. 430 for Hainings, and Tls. 327½ to Tls. 365 for Tsut-tees. Common Laeyangs (Skeins) and inferior Tsuttees were reported purchased at Tls. 212½ to Tls. 215 for the former and Tls. 280 per picul for the latter. The market was weak and in face of the heavy stocks Chinese were very anxious sellers, and were offering market classes of silk at lower rates, but the concession was not sufficient to induce business to any extent, as prospects were in favour of a still further decline. Chops and all known silks were not so eagerly pressed for sale, but were offered at lower prices than purchases were made at a fortnight previously. Arrivals having exceeded the settlements the untold stock had increased to 13,500 bales.

YOKOHAMA.—The market had shown less activity. Dealers manifested little disposition to meet buyers until towards the close, when, arrivals being on a liberal scale, a weaker feeling became apparent, and, at the close, a decline of \$10 per picul was quoted. Silkworms' Eggs: According to a report, of a semi-official character, the total production this year has been 2,470,000 cards; 600,000 cards are to be kept in the native market, for the consumption of Japan. The quantity destroyed by fire, as reported in our last issue, does not exceed 470,000 cards, which leaves 1,400,000 cards available for export. The total settlements, to date, being 900,000 cards, the unsold stock may be estimated as follows:—240,000 cards in Yokohama, and 260,000 to arrive—a portion of which is in Yedo. Prices were easier—Annual Green and White selling at from \$0.30 to \$0.60, according to quality. The total shipments, to date, had reached nearly 800,000 cards.

SHANGHAI SHARES AND STOCKS.

	Shares.	Paid up.	Latest Qtn.	Last Divid.
Shanghai Dock Company ...	Tls. 500	...	Tls. 500	... Tls. 205 ... 4 p.c.
Shanghai Gas Company ...	100	...	100	... 143 ... 12 p.c.
Shanghai S.N. Company ...	100	...	100	... 82 ... 12 p.c.
S. Tug and Lighter Company ...	850	...	850	... 600 ... 12 p.c.
French Gas Company ...	50	...	50	... 70 ... 11 p.c.
Hong K. Fire Insurance Co. ...	\$1,000	...	\$200	... \$530 ... 12 p.c.
North China Insurance Co. ...	Tls. 1,000	...	Tls. 300	... Tls. 360 ... trien.
North China Steamer Company ...	100	...	100	... 11 cash ...
Union S.N. Company ...	100	...	100	... 20 ... 12 p.c.
Yangtze Ins. Association ...	500	...	500	... \$620 ... 15 p.c.
Union Insurance Society ...	\$5,000	...	\$1,000	... nom. ... trien.
China Traders Co. (Limited) ...	1,000	...	1,000	... 1,750 \$250 p.sh
China and Japan Marine Ins. Co.	Tls. 500	...	Tls. 100	... Tls. 85 ... 12 p.c.
Victoria Fire Insurance Co. ...	\$500	...	\$100	... \$12½ ... 12 p.c.
China Fire Insurance Co. ...	500	...	100	... 136 ... 12 p.c.
Hongkew Wharf Co. ...	Tls. 100	...	Tls. 100	... Tls. 93 ... 12 p.c.

EXPORT OF TEA AND SILK, SEASON 1874-75.

TO GREAT BRITAIN.

Date.	TEA.					SILK.
	From Shang-hai and Hankow	From Foo-chow.	From Amoy.	From Canton, Macao, &c.	Total lbs.	
From June 1, 1874, to Nov. 11, 1874	71086818	49171421	626251	14919094	135803584	31213
From June 1, 1873, to Nov. 11, 1873	63096049	41045915	111726	13361667	117351229	33148

TO THE CONTINENT.

From June 1, 1874, to Nov. 11, 1874	...	...	...	...	4646707	28161
Do. do. 1873, to Nov. 11, 1873	...	...	...	...	7631793	15760

TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

From June 1, 1874, to Nov. 11, 1874	...	...	...	...	30487296	2815
Do. do. 1873, to Nov. 11, 1873	...	...	...	...	22315559	3639

TO AUSTRALIA.

From June 1, 1874, to Nov. 11, 1874	...	...	...	...	12,393,697	
Do. do. 1873, to Nov. 11, 1873	...	...	...	...	11,920,893	

TO GREAT BRITAIN.

From	Tea—lbs.	Silk, bales China & Japan.	From	Tea—lbs.	Silk, bales China & Japan.
1843 to 1844	51,032,800	...	1863 to 1864	117,463,586	46,603
1845 to 1846	57,334,200	18,600	1864 to 1865	121,236,870	32,313
1846 to 1847	63,972,000	22,114	1865 to 1866	118,333,042	62,890
1847 to 1848	77,327,800	61,253	1866 to 1867	118,423,290	50,052
1848 to 1849	92,240,300	50,181	1867 to 1868	116,890,430	57,449
1849 to 1850	76,990,255	68,315	1868 to 1869	142,789,804	70,917
1850 to 1851	65,789,792	83,134	1869 to 1870	139,740,193	63,807
1851 to 1852	85,560,452	61,169	1870 to 1871	131,969,850	51,329
1852 to 1853	90,066,160	70,644	1871 to 1872	149,771,395	54,589
1853 to 1854	109,854,040	79,199	1872 to 1873	151,869,262	57,263
1854 to 1855	121,373,589	72,847	1873 to 1874	144,588,620	47,373

* Including the Continent.

EXCHANGES, & c.

[For dates see first page.]

ON LONDON.

At	Bank Bills.	Credits.	Documentary.
Yokohama, 6 m.s.	4s. 2½d.	4s. 2½d. to 4s. 2½d.	4s. 2½d.
Shanghai	5s. 9½d. to 5s. 9½d.	5s. 9½d.	5s. 9½d.
Canton	4s. 2½d.	4s. 2½d.	4s. 3½d.
Hong Kong	4s. 2½d.	4s. 2½d.	4s. 3½d.
Macao	4s. 2½d.	4s. 2½d.	4s. 3½d.
Singapore	4s. 2½d.	4s. 2½d.	4s. 3½d.
Manila	4s. 2½d.	4s. 1d.	4s. 3½d.

MISCELLANEOUS.

	At Shanghai	At Hong Kong.
Bills on India	Ra. 306	223
" Hong Kong	26½ to 27½ dis.	10 prem.
Bar silver	Tls. 111.3.0	1½ prem
Mexican dollars	74.6.0	

SHARES AT HONG KONG.

Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, 4 per cent. premium.
 Hong Kong Gas Company, \$75 per share.
 Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock, 47 per cent. discount.
 China Traders' Insurance Company, \$600 premium.
 Hotel Shares, 50 per cent. discount.
 Hong Kong and Macao Steamboat Company, 7 premium.
 Hong Kong Fire Insurance Company, \$327½ prem.
 Union Insurance Society, \$30 premium.
 China and Japan Marine Insurance Company, Tls. 82 per share.
 China Fire Insurance Company, \$36 premium.
 Victoria Fire Insurance Company, \$28 premium.
 Indo-Chinese Sugar Company, 94 per cent. dis.
 Shanghai Steam Navigation Company, Tls. 80 per share.

* * The latest Exchange quotations by telegram are for six m.s. bank bills at Shanghai 5s. 9d., at Hong Kong 4s. 2½d., at Batavia F.11.70, at Manila 4s. 0½d., at Singapore, 4s. 2½d.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

THE BURNING OF THE PACIFIC MAIL STEAMER "JAPAN."

HONG KONG, DEC. 19.—The Pacific mail steamer *Japan*, from Yokohama, was destroyed by fire at sea on the 17th inst., sixty miles from this port. A few of her crew and passengers have arrived here, but it is expected that many have been lost.

HONG KONG, DEC. 21.—The captain and several more of the crew and passengers of the mail steamer *Japan*, arrived here yesterday. There are now missing Mr. Tyndall, a cabin passenger, and one steerage passenger, the surgeon of the ship and several of the crew, and 400 Chinese. The fire on board was first discovered over the boilers at eleven P.M. on the 17th inst., 150 miles from Hong Kong. It being impossible to subdue it, the captain decided at one A.M. on the 18th inst. to abandon the vessel. The boats remained near here until noon in order to save life, and then proceeded to Swatow. The *Japan's* mails were lost.

HONG KONG, DEC. 23.—Two American gunboats have returned from the scene of the *Japan's* disaster, and have brought back Mr. Tyndall, Dr. Gates, and 120 Chinese. The Pacific steamer *Alaska* was blown ashore during the late typhoon, but has been safely floated.

RUSSIA AND CHINA.

WLADIVOSTOCK, DEC. 18.—Great uneasiness is caused among the inhabitants of Schkatoff, in the Amoor territory, by the news of the

approach of a Mantchoo army towards the Russian frontier. This force, originally stated to number 6,000 men, is constantly swelled by other bands as it advances. The Russian Government has taken measures for the protection of the inhabitants, and has sent out scouts and stationed outposts at various points. It is believed that a body of Russian troops will be despatched against the advancing Mantchoos.

THE ATCHIN WAR.

THE HAGUE, DEC. 21.—According to an official telegram from Atchin on the 18th inst., the result of the mission of the Comptroller, who was sent to the refractory States on the West Coast of Atchin with an ultimatum, was not satisfactory.

CHINA MARKET REPORT.

HONG KONG, DEC. 24.—Grey Shirtings, 6½ cattie, \$1lb., \$2.50; Cotton Yarn, water-twist, \$1.14. Total exports of Tea from China and Japan to England from 1st June, 153,000,000 lbs., against 131,875,000 lbs. to corresponding date last year.

SHANGHAI, DEC. 24.—Grey Shirtings, 6½ cattie, \$1lb., Tls. 1.9.1. Tea: Green in fair demand. Silk, firm; No. 3 Tsatlee (Koonfongsings), Tls. 410.

THE MAILS.

PRESENT INWARD MAIL.—MARSEILLES, DEC. 22.—The Messageries Maritimes steamer *Hoogly*, with the inward French mails from China and Japan, arrived to-day at 10 A.M. at the Hyeres Bay anchorage, where the mails were landed, in consequence of stress of weather. She brings 96 passengers and a general cargo, including 235 bales of silk, 12,694 packages of tea, and 596 packages of sundries, for London, which part of her cargo will be forwarded to its destination per Company's steamer *Gange*, due in London on or about the 6th of January.

NEXT INWARD MAIL.—SUZ, DEC. 26.—The P. and O. Company's steamer *Surat* arrived at 1, and the *Baroda* at 5 P.M. to-day from Calcutta and Bombay respectively.—ALEXANDRIA, DEC. 27.—The P. and O. steamer *Venetia* sailed at 11 A.M. to-day for Brindisi, where she is expected to arrive on the 30th inst. The mails will probably reach London on the morning of Saturday next.

HEAVY PORTION OF LAST INWARD MAIL.—GIBRALTAR, DEC. 24.—The P. and O. Company's steamer *Australia* arrived at 6 P.M., and leaves for Southampton at two o'clock to-morrow morning, where she may be expected on Tuesday evening. Experienced very heavy weather. All well.

INWARD MAIL DUE JANUARY 18.—GALLE, DEC. 24.—The P. and O. Company's steamer *Nubia*, from Australia, and the *Geelong*, from China, arrived here to-day with the China and Australian mails. The *Peshawur* leaves here for Suez to-morrow. Specie for Europe, £530,000.

Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVALS.

At YOKOHAMA.—From Hamburg, Oct. 30, *Progress*; from New York, Nov. 3, *Chattanooga*; from London, Dec. —, *Carnarvonshire*.

At SHANGHAI.—From London, &c., Dec. 22, *Hankow*, *Menelaus* (str.); At HONG KONG and CANTON.—From London, Nov. 17, *Chinaman*; from Liverpool, *Deucalion* (str.); from Hamburg, 14, *Sylvia* (str.); 16, *Henriette Behn*.

At SINGAPORE.—From London, Nov. 15, *Crocus* (str.); 20, *Glenlyon* (str.); from Glasgow, 19, *Ocean*; from Cardiff, 19, *Guiseppeina*, *Uglian*; 21, *Lochleven Castle*; from Sunderland, 17, *Zeeburg*; 20, *Olive*; from London, &c., *Glenroy* (str.), *Somerset* (str.).

At PENANG.—From London, Dec. —, *Montgomeryshire*.

At BANGKOK.—From London Nov. 15, *Lyra*.

DEPARTURES.

From YOKOHAMA.—For New York, Nov. 1, *New Republic*.

From HIOGO.—For New York, Oct. 19, *Sydenham*.

From SHANGHAI.—For London, Nov. 8, *Glenfalloch* (str.), *Cawdor Castle* (str.); for New York, *Leander*.

From MANILA.—For London, Nov. 10, *The Sir Jamsetjee Family*; 31, *Scawfell*, for Channel, f.o.; 7, *Eugenio*; for New York, Oct. 30, *Charmar*, *Fleetwing*.

From SINGAPORE.—For London, Nov. 21, *Galatea* (str.), *Asterora*.

From BANGKOK.—For Marseilles, Oct. 25, *Belle Justine*; Nov. 3, *Jules Rose*.

SHIPPING POSTSCRIPT.

ARRIVALS NOT IN THE TABLES.—Dec. 24, at London, from Colombo &c., *Queen Victoria* (str.); 26, *Granville*; 27, *Buston Vale*; 24, from China, &c., *Hong Kong* (str.); 27, from Shanghai, *Kaisow*; 24, off Prawle Point, from Shanghai, *Lothair*; 25, at Falmouth, from Rangoon, *Barenten*; *Anitta Gortomo*; 23, off Deal, from Shanghai, *Jas. Shepherd*; at Marseilles, from Colombo, *Atkinson* (str.); at New York, from Hong Kong, *Queen of the South*; from Colombo, *Catherine Scott*; off Deal, from Manila, *Tim Whiffler*; off the Lizard, from Java, *H. K. R. Q.*; *Willem Poolman*; at Queenstown, from Java, *Tennyson*.

SPOKEN.—Q.C.D.R., Cardiff to Singapore, Nov. 20, 6 N., 23 W.; *Dunbar Castle*, Colombo to London, Dec. 17, 45 N., 26 W.

CASUALTIES.—Liverpool, Dec. 25, the *George Walker*, from Batavia, reports that on Dec. 11 she shipped a heavy sea, which washed away two boats, toppled rail, and smashed front of house on deck; she had a number of mails carried away and jettisoned part of cargo.

CAIRO, DEC. 24.—The *Sourbapa*, a floating dock, which went ashore at Helensburg, Oct. 1, has been taken off and brought into mid harbour here.

MISCELLANEOUS.—At Port Said, Dec. 28, *Prins Hendrick* (str.), from *Nieuwe Diep*, for Java.

Naval and Military.

Two new war steamers, the *Contest* and the *Express*, which have been built by Messrs. Doxford and Co., of Sunderland, are in the Tyne. They made a satisfactory trial run on the 18th inst. Their engines have been put in by Messrs. R. and W. Hawthorne, of Newcastle. The vessels have been built for coasting purposes, and are very fine specimens of their class.

Permission has been granted by the Admiralty to the request made by the officers and ship's company of H.M.S. *Cadmus*, recently paid off at Devonport, to place a tablet in the dockyard chapel at that port, in memory of their deceased shipmates, who died during the commission, which will be remembered as a happy one by all who served in her.

The colonelcy of the 67th Regiment, vacant by the death of General F. J. Davies, has been conferred on Lieutenant-General H. P. Raymond, the dates of whose commissions are as follows:—Ensign, 1825; lieutenant, 1827; captain, 1834; major, 1846; lieutenant-colonel, 1851; colonel, 1854; major-general, 1865; lieutenant-general, 1874.

Colonel Younghusband's special Committee on Gun cotton have forwarded their report to the Secretary for War. They recommend gun-cotton as a valuable explosive both for military and naval purposes. With regard to safety of manufacture, storage, and conveyance, it compared favourably with other explosives examined.

Colonel John Stokes, C.B., Royal Engineers, has been appointed Commanding Royal Engineers at Chatham, in succession to Colonel J. W. Lovell, C.B. Colonel Stokes served with distinction through the Kaffir wars of 1846-47 and 1850-52, and did good service with the Turkish contingent during the war with Russia.

Mr. John Read, late boatswain of the *Revenge*, who was recently dismissed the Service by court-martial, has, by permission of the Admiralty, re-entered as chief petty officer, the time served as warrant officer being allowed to count for chief petty officer's time with regard to pension.

Lieutenant R. G. Warton, of the first battalion of the 10th Regiment, is under orders to return home from Singapore to relieve Lieutenant G. C. Helme at the depot. Lieutenant F. N. I. Taylor has left England for Singapore to rejoin head-quarters from leave of absence.

Colonel Peter Stark Lumsden, C.B., C.S.I., Bengal Staff Corps, has been confirmed in his appointment as Adjutant-General to the Army in India from 1st September, 1874, and is given the local rank of Major-General.

Mr. George Liddell, assistant-paymaster, R.N., has been selected to fill the post of secretary to Captain Algernon M.L. Lyons, the newly appointed commodore at Jamaica.

Mr. Swainson, at present Superintendent of the Observatory, Portsmouth, and formerly of the Foculow Arsenal, has been promoted to the rank of Staff-Commander.

New crews for the *Alacritty* and *Conflict*, employed on the Australian station, as well as some supernumeraries, are held in readiness at Devonport to embark for passage.

Legal.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.

ACHARD V. KING AND OTHERS.—MARINE INSURANCE CASE.

This was an action by the charterer of a ship against the shipowners to recover the value of a damaged cargo destroyed by scuttling the ship in order to put out a fire; and it raised a question of some importance as to the liability of shipowners in such cases. The question is one which has greatly divided the opinion of authorities on mercantile law, and the action was avowedly brought to reopen the question, in consequence of a decision in this Court having been reversed by the Court of Error. In that case—*Stewart v. the Pacific Insurance Company*—this Court held that the claim in such a case by the general law was tenable, and that a custom could not alter the law in that respect, but the Court of Error reversed that decision on the ground that a custom to exclude such claims was valid. The present action was brought to review that decision and dispute the alleged custom to exclude such claims. In April, 1872, the plaintiff chartered a ship of the defendants to bring a cargo of rice from Burmah to Liverpool, and by the charter questions of general average were to be settled by the custom of London underwriters. The ship arrived in dock, and had half discharged the cargo, when on the 2nd of November, 1872, a fire was discovered in the hold, and at the advice of the harbour-master the ship was scuttled to put out the fire. Of course the rest of the cargo was much damaged, and the charterer claimed about £4,700 from the shipowners, by way of "general average"—that is, as an expenditure incurred for the salvation of the ship. The shipowners disputed the claim and relied on a decision in the Court of Error in the Exchequer Chamber, on the 23rd of June, 1873, to the effect that by the custom of underwriters such claims were excluded. By the charter questions of general average were to be settled by the custom of the London underwriters, and the custom, as proved in that case, excluded such claims. But it was disputed in the present case that such a custom existed, or, at all events, that it has existed since that case, as it was then, it was said, altered, though the damage in the present case was before the decision referred to. The case for the plaintiff was opened upon the general law, and the authority of this Court in the case cited. On the other side the decision of the Court of Error was relied on.

The Lord Chief Justice summed up the case to the jury, directing them as to the law, and leaving to them the question of fact as to the supposed custom. In the result, after some deliberation, the jury found for the plaintiff.

CARGOES AFLOAT.

SINGAPORE AND PENANG.

Per *Superior*, 100 tons gambier, 480 tons sago flour, 200 tons black pepper, 300 cwt. rattans, 67 cwt. hides, 20 m. Malacca canes. *Luzon*, 125 tons gambier, 160 tons black pepper, 10 tons white pepper, 320 cwt. rattans, 3 tons horns. *Elly*, 25 tons tin, 230 tons black pepper, 5 tons white pepper, 350 cwt. rattans, 965 cwt. hides, 465 tons sugar, 30 tons horns. *Tynedale*, 250 tons gambier, 125 tons sago flour, 100 tons pearl sago, 46 tons black pepper, 46 tons white pepper, 12 tons coffee, 720 cwt. rattans, 960 cwt. hides, 31 tons india-rubber, 10 tons horns, 60 tons tapioca. *Verulam*, 62 tons black pepper, 400 tons rattans, 224 cwt. hides, 208 tons sugar. *United Service*, 50 tons gambier, 25 tons tin, 1,480 cwt. rattans, 35 tons tapioca. *Cameo*, 510 tons gambier, 135 tons sago flour, 165 tons pearl sago, 88 tons black pepper, 45 tons white pepper, 32 tons gutta-percha, 990 cwt. rattans, 1,098 cwt. hides, 18 tons horns, 70 m. Malacca canes, 255 cwt. copal, 133 cwt. mother-o'-pearl shells, 10 tons tapioca. *Hope*, 25 tons tin, 190 tons black pepper, 110 tons rattans, 82 cwt. hides, 430 tons sugar, 6 tons horns, 30 m. Malacca canes. *Alexandra*, 244 tons gambier, 460 tons sago flour, 125 tons pearl sago, 50 tons black pepper, 15 tons white pepper, 15 tons gutta-percha, 660 cwt. rattans, 927 cwt. hides, 14 tons horns, 53 tons Malacca canes, 50 tons tapioca. *Robert Morrison*, 345 tons gambier, 100 tons sago flour, 70 tons black pepper, 55 tons coffee, 590 cwt. rattans, 55 cwt. hides, 11 tons india-rubber, 6 tons horns, 175 cwt. mother-o'-pearl shells. *H. W. M.* 100 tons gambier, 160 tons sago flour, 460 tons black pepper, 2 tons black gutta-percha, 6 tons gutta-percha, 560 cwt. rattans, 1,046 cwt. hides, 210 tons sugar, 2 tons india-rubber, 20 tons horns, 30 m. Malacca canes. *Mary Nelson*, 320 tons black pepper, 25 tons white pepper, 1 ton gutta, 420 cwt. rattans, 194 cwt. hides, 310 tons sugar. *Olympia*, 45 tons tin. *Amstel*, 740 tons gambier, 105 tons pearl sago, 65 tons white pepper, 580 tons rattans. *Houden*, 690 tons gambier, 316 tons sago flour, 52 tons pearl sago, 34 tons black pepper, 11 tons do. do., 5 tons gutta, 3,680 cwt. rattans, 570 cwt. hides, 52 tons sugar. *Aurora Australis*, 375 tons gambier, 190 tons tin, 65 tons sago flour, 12 tons pearl sago, 12 tons black pepper, 2 tons white pepper, 320 cwt. rattans, 253 cwt. hides. *Akbar*, 540 tons gambier, 52 tons sago flour, 34 tons black pepper, 300 cwt. rattans, 45 cwt. hides. *Bertie*, 402 tons gambier, 154 tons sago flour, 70 tons pearl sago, 10 tons black pepper, 12 do. do., 415 cwt. hides. *Claudine*, 280 tons gambier, 220 tons sago flour, 27 tons pearl sago, 200 cwt. hides. *United Service*, 200 tons sago flour, 27 tons pearl sago, 12 tons sapanwood. *Warden Law*, 685 tons sago flour, 260 cwt. rattans.

MANILA.

Tim Whiffler (Manila and Ilo Ilo), 1,000 tons sugar, 565 tons hemp, 42 tons sapanwood, 23 cwt. mother o'pearl shells. *Annie*, 380 tons sugar, 205 tons hemp. *Verena*, 450 tons sugar, 100 tons coffee, 35 tons hemp, 10 tons sapanwood, 100 cwt. mother o'pearl shells, 710 mil. cigars. *Seawell* (via Cebu), 120 tons hemp. *Atma* (Cebu), 365 tons sugar, 255 tons hemp. *Eliza*, 380 tons sugar, 175 tons hemp. *Mountain Laurel*, 800 tons sugar, 387 tons hemp, 10 mil. cigars. *Trinidad*, 600 tons sugar, 395 tons hemp, 13 tons sapanwood. *Star of China* (Cebu), 500 tons sugar, 500 tons hemp, 2 tons sapanwood, 125 cwt. hides, 30 cwt. mother o'pearl shells. *Emiliano* (str.), 1,200 tons sugar, 512 tons hemp, 20 cwt. mother o'pearl shells, 47 tons tobacco, 1,280 mil. cigars. *Durham* (via Cebu), 190 tons hemp. *Hugh Bourne* (Ilo Ilo), 650 tons sugar. *Antipodes* (Ilo Ilo), 590 tons sugar. *Lizzie Iredale*, 775 tons sugar, 330 tons hemp, 8 tons sapanwood. *May Queen* (Ilo Ilo), 705 tons sugar. *Lancroft* (Ilo Ilo), 900 tons sugar, 22 tons sapanwood. *British Empire* (Ilo Ilo), 732 tons sugar, 5 tons sapanwood.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

Hudson—On the 22nd Oct., at Yokohama, the wife of John Hudson, of a son.

Scott—On the 15th Nov., at Canton, the wife of Edward Irwin Scott, M.D., of a son.

DEATHS.

MAPPIN—On the 26th Dec., at Wharnciffe House, Clapham-park, London, Charlotte, the wife of Edward Mappin, in the 48th year of her age.

McCLATCHIE—On the 22nd Dec., at 67, Granville-park, Blackheath, S.E., Arthur J. McClatchie, second son of Rev. Canon McClatchie, of Shanghai, China, aged 24.

STREET—On the 15th Dec., at Colombo, Ceylon, of dysentery, Sophia Baker, the dearly beloved wife of Major-General John Alfred Street, C.B., and eldest daughter of the Rev. J. J. Holroyd, of White Hall, Colchester, Essex, aged 40 years.

TYENZ—On the 8th Nov., at the British Queen Tavern, Shanghai, Mr. Charles Ymenz, proprietor, aged 55 years.

The American trade dollar has largely displaced the Mexican dollar in the Far West. Mexican dollars are quoted in San Francisco at half per cent. discount; the trade dollar is quoted at half per cent. premium. San Francisco bids fair to control the trade in silver with China.

Sir Daniel Lange, the representative in London of the Suez Canal Company, writes to *The Times* stating that no new regulations regarding the canal have been issued, those already issued continuing to subsist in their entirety.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS, CORRESPONDENTS, &c.

No notice can be taken of Anonymous Correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

A Register is kept of the Addresses of all Persons connected with the *Far East*, and reference can be made to the same by personal application at the Office or by letter.

Any information required by Subscribers in reference to Commercial or general matters in CHINA, JAPAN, SINGAPORE, and other parts of the *Far East* will be supplied on application at the Office, where files may be seen of the Journals published in those Countries.

The "*LONDON AND CHINA EXPRESS*" is published Weekly on the day of departure of the mails, and contains a summary of English, Continental, and American News, Commercial and Shipping Reports, &c. Subscription, £3 3s. per annum.

The "*LONDON AND CHINA TELEGRAPH*" is published Weekly on the arrival of the English and French mails. Subscription, £2 2s. per annum.

JAMES WEST, PUBLISHER,

2, COWPER'S COURT, CORNHILL, LONDON.

The London & China Telegraph.

LONDON: MONDAY, DEC. 28, 1874.

EASTERN AGRICULTURAL COMPANIES.

OUR last issue contained two announcements in reference to business of an identical character, and yet so entirely opposite in their nature that we are tempted to offer a few remarks on some of the features of these two very similar undertakings. It was then stated, on the faith of the Report of the Directors of the Ceylon Company, that they had resolved on closing their business in Mauritius, owing to the unremunerative character of sugar growing in that island, and it was in the same issue announced that a new association for a precisely similar purpose has been formed, called the Agriculturist Company of Mauritius (Limited), with a capital of £500,000, in 50,000 shares of £10 each. This Company states its objects to be, "to make advances on growing crops in Mauritius, as well as to acquire sugar estates and to undertake irrigation works." It is stated in the prospectus that the sugar estates in the island produce for the most part from 500 to 2,000 tons of sugar each, and employ a number of Indian coolies, varying from 250 to 1,000. The Board of Direction is almost identical with that of the Credit Foncier of Mauritius.

The fact of a body of capitalists being found ready to enter upon business which is being abandoned by another company after a number of years' operations is full of significance, especially when the latter fact be taken in connection with the reason assigned, viz., the losing character of sugar production. "With regard to the announcement," say the directors, "of their intention to restrict their business in the Mauritius, and to withdraw altogether from it, the matter had been carefully considered by the board, and they felt certain that that was the right course to pursue, since the price of labour and provisions had risen to such an extent as to curtail the profits; for whereas the cost of making one cwt. of sugar used to be \$3½ it was \$4½, and though the prices obtained were higher, yet they were not so in proportion to the increased cost, and there was no reason to suppose it would diminish." According to this showing, the entire sugar interest of Mauritius must be on the verge of ruin, and the marvel is how a new company can be found to enter upon such unprofitable business!

In Ceylon, too, we are told, the whole produce of the island had been equal to not more than 2½ cwt. per acre, though they had only suffered in common with their neighbours, who, many of them, had been making losses instead of profits. So that making losses instead of gains by some occult process is made to yield a dividend of four per cent. per annum. So far from being disappointed at this low rate, as the directors anticipate, shareholders should feel considerably surprised that any dividend at all had been squeezed out of such a state of things as described by the Chairman at the recent meeting. "The leaf disease and the unusual rains had, however, so reduced the crop that it would not come up to the average, and though some estates had borne well, the majority had not paid their expenses." Leaf disease had no doubt something to do with short crops, but we were not aware that the season referred to, 1872-3, had been unusually wet.

If one half of what is stated in the Ceylon papers in regard to planting operations and dealings with constituents

by this Company be true, we suspect that other causes than leaf disease and unusual rains are in operation to the prejudice of shareholders' interests. No doubt the coffee interest of Ceylon has had its trials and disappointments of late, but upon the whole it has been and is still fairly successful, quite as much so as any other agricultural pursuit in the tropics. We do not hesitate to affirm that a larger number of Ceylon coffee proprietors have retired from the island with independent means during the last two years than in any previous period of like duration. A Company, therefore, having such an important stake in the island ought to present a better report than that just published. That there has been sad mismanagement somewhere there can be no doubt; but the Company possess in their many fine properties the means of future success if they will but use those means aright.

CHINESE COOLIES IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA.

IN a recent issue we mentioned that a movement was on foot in the colony of Queensland, on the eastern coast of Australia, to introduce Chinese labour into that territory, for tropical agriculture. According to the *Northern Territory Times*, a system of coolie emigration has already commenced between Singapore and Port Darwin, on the north-west coast, where a new town has been formed and named Palmerston, under the jurisdiction of the South Australian Government, who have authorised agents to engage the immigrants. A batch of some two hundred were brought over in this manner, and landed from the British ship *Vidar*, at the settlement, and the Government representative transferred their services to private parties, on their paying the cost of introducing them, which was about £9 7s. per head, including passage-money, commission for selecting, medical fees, and the expenses incurred by the employment of Captain DOUGLAS on his special mission, besides the provisions of the men on the voyage. The wages are fixed at the rate of 8s. per week, and they are to be supplied with rations by their employers, "according to the custom of Chinese coolies in Australia," and at the end of two years' service, if they wish to return to Singapore, they are to be provided with a free passage; or, if they wish to remain in the colony they are to be paid £5 each in lieu thereof. Medical attendance is also to be provided free of charge. On his part each coolie signs an agreement printed in English and Chinese, under which he binds himself to act as a "general servant" for a period of two years; and his services as such are to be available "in town or country, field, mine, factory or house." It is provided, also, that they are not to be required to work on Sundays, and not more than ten hours of one day in twenty-four hours. Accompanying this first body of men were eleven *mandores*, or gangers, the chief man getting £5 6s. per month, and the others £3 10s. to £2 10s. per month. Altogether the terms are more liberal for the Chinese labourer than any hitherto set forth, and as the system is under Government control, there is every guarantee of these being faithfully carried out.

THE account of affairs in Pahang, as related in *The Times* of the 22nd inst. hardly convey an exact idea of the facts. Certain evidence was laid before Governor CLARKE, accusing the Bandahara of Pahang of hostility towards the Maharajah of Johore and complicity in acts of piracy. It now appears that these accusations are groundless, for with the exception of a murder committed by a small Pahang Chieftain, there existed no real ground of complaint against the Pahang Government. An old feud existed between the Bandahara and the Maharajah, which Sir ANDREW CLARKE will no doubt do his best to remove. Although considerable progress has been made in the Straits, and the new policy works well, yet much remains to be accomplished. It is injudicious, therefore, in the partisans of the new policy to anticipate in every possible way the good which may accrue. The articles which have appeared in some of our contemporaries are calculated to have a mischievous tendency, and Sir ANDREW CLARKE may well ask to be spared from the laudation thus indiscriminately offered him. The wonderful accounts of the results of "investments in agriculture" should be received with caution. There is, no doubt, much to be done, which,

if well done, will prove very remunerative. The immense profits spoken of can only be obtained after the expenditure of time, money, patience, and great perseverance.

THE German Minister of Commerce at Berlin has announced to all Chambers of Commerce and mercantile bodies whom it may concern that in consequence of the efforts of the German representative in Yedo, the Japanese Government has declared itself willing to permit German vessels for a fixed fee to obtain coal from the Takashina pits, and to continue their voyages thence without calling again at Nagasaki.

THE expedition for the exploration of the Western China route, which has started from Rangoon for Bhamo and Momein to Talifoo, will terminate at Shanghai, and effect a complete survey and report of the Yangtze valley. Besides the names we have given in a previous issue, we understand that Mr. ALLEN, Interpreter, of the China Consular Service, has joined.

By a telegram which we publish in another column it will be seen that the progress of the Dutch in Atchin is still described as "unsatisfactory." It appears very doubtful if the campaign will be brought to a close this season. The resignation of Governor-General LOUDON will further complicate matters.

THE troopship *Adventure* arrived at Hong Kong on the 22nd inst. with the Marines from Yokohama, en route for England. As no reinforcements are under orders, we presume that the withdrawal of this force from Yokohama has been finally decided on by the Foreign-office.

THE Emperor of GERMANY has granted an audience to Prince YOSHIHISA, the uncle of the MIKADO.

Literature.

The Aborigines of Northern Formosa. A Paper read before the North China Branch of the R.A.S., Shanghai, 18th June, 1874. By EDWARD C. TAINTOR, A.M., F.R.G.S., Commissioner in the Chinese Customs Service. Privately printed at the Customs' Press, Shanghai: 1874.

At least two thirds of the island of Formosa are inhabited by aboriginal tribes, who are for the most part in a savage state, and it was to a study of those living in the northern—or, more strictly speaking, in the north-eastern—part of the island that Mr. Taintor applied himself during his official residence there; the greater part of the information given in this interesting paper was, however, derived from a visit which he paid to a point some fifty-four miles south of Kelung, where a colony of semi-civilised aborigines had recently been established under the leadership of a foreigner.

The aborigines of Northern Formosa are of two races, very different in appearance, and, indeed, in almost every respect. The one is partially civilised, and adopts some Chinese customs; these are called in the local Chinese dialect *Pepo huan*, or savages of the plain, *pepo* being a corruption of *ping-pu*; they are also termed *shuk fan* (in mandarin *shu-fan*). The savages proper constitute the other race, their various clans being included under the designation *shéng fan*.

The Pepos, who call themselves "Kabaran," are the medium of intercourse between the Chinese and the savages, and some 4,000 of them inhabit a fertile valley, which commences twenty-five miles south of Kelung and extends to Suao Bay, a distance of fourteen miles; its popular name is Kapsulan, but it is officially called Komalan, and was erected into a ting district in 1812. "The Pepos," says Mr. Taintor, "present a great variety of face, especially among the women. Many of the men . . . are tall and straight, and much superior in physique to the Chinese. They have a much more frank, open, manly expression of countenance than the latter, and this is greatly heightened by their eyes. The women are small and slender, and although marrying young, do not appear so prematurely faded as the Chinese women. Some of them had really handsome, regular features; others were extremely ugly. Some of them are of a clear olive colour—others as dark and coarse as Malays. Their finest features are their eyes, which are uncommonly large, round, and full, with an iris of a deep rich black, and languid as a Spanish belle's. . . . The women are simple, naïve, and curious, and have none of the affected prudery of the Chinese women." The Pepos are fishermen or hunters according as they live on the coast or in the interior, and some of them cultivate a little ground; their women do most of the drudgery, and when not otherwise occupied, they are engaged in weaving cloth. Mr. Taintor "found it extremely difficult to get any satisfactory ideas regarding the religious beliefs and superstitions of the Pepos," but he gives an account of

some curious ceremonies which he saw or had described to him, one being apparently of a quasi-religious nature.

The *Shéng fan*, or savages proper, of whom the principal clan is the *Fukun*, are smaller men than the Pepos, and inferior to them in appearance. Mr. Taintor states that they intermarry very closely, that their skulls are of the pyramidal rather than the oval type, and that their eyes are not so large and full as those of the Pepos, nor yet so almond-shaped and oblique as those of the Chinese. Their hair is coarse, straight, and black, uncut and unshaven, but carefully gathered into a bunch at the back of the head. Their women are remarkably short and thick-set; very low foreheads predominate in both sexes, and their whole expression is destitute of intelligence. They all tattoo the face in dark blue lines with indigo; and, remarks Mr. Taintor, the "broad band of sombre blue, running across the whole face of the women, adds materially to their prevailing natural ugliness, and should be a far more effective safe-guard for jealous husbands than even the blackened teeth of the Japanese women." One of the most singular customs prevalent among them is that of knocking out the eye-teeth of all the children when they reach the age of six or eight years, in the belief that it strengthens their speed and wind in hunting! Their whole mode of existence is primitive in the extreme; they live chiefly by the chase, but they also cultivate a few things like sweet potatoes, yams, ground nuts, &c.; they grow tobacco, and its "name, *ta-ba-ka*, is sufficient evidence of its introduction among them by either the Dutch or Spanish colonists;" their huts are about as simply constructed as they well can be, poles and grass being the materials employed: lastly, we may mention that "they bury their dead standing upright, and their weapons and utensils are buried with them."

It is to be regretted that Mr. Taintor did not think it worth while to give us some more detailed information with regard to the camphor trade in its various aspects, instead of merely quoting a couple of paragraphs from an old Customs' Trade Report, especially as he considers that Formosa possesses an exceptional interest and importance from the fact of its being the principal source of the camphor supply of the world. He concludes his valuable contribution on the Formosan aborigines with some notices relating to them, "condensed and translated from the *Komalan-ting Chih*, the geographical and statistical description of the Komalan or Kapsulan valley," and with a quotation from the *Tung-ching Tsi*, which is "noteworthy for the sentiments expressed as to the proper method of dealing with the savages." Among the former the account of the way in which the aborigines make wine is curious;—"Their wine," it is stated, "is made from glutinous rice. Each person takes a handful of rice in his mouth, and masticates it until soft. It is then put into an earthen jar, and by the next day it has fermented, so that by adding water wine is produced. They consider very sour wines the best."

In an Appendix to his Paper Mr. Taintor gives a comparative vocabulary of the Kabaran (Pepo) and Yukan (Savage) dialects, comprising 378 words of the former and 135 of the latter. In several instances he adds the corresponding expressions in Malay, Javanese, and the languages in use in the Philippines, Madagascar, &c.; and the coincidence, actual or approximate, is in many cases certainly very striking.

If the visit of the Shah of Persia to Europe has been unproductive of any real good to his Persian subjects, it has at least had the result of developing the literary resources of his Majesty. The *Diary of the Shah's Tour through Europe* is a quaint narrative, and that portion of it which relates to England is most amusing. Of all the sights shown to the Shah, none seem to have gratified him more than the wax exhibition at Madame Tussaud's, and it is not unlikely that Teheran will one day rival London in its wax-work exhibitions. The journey through Europe was a source of continued wonder, commencing in Russia, and increasing at every fresh stage until it finally reached the culminating point here in England. The Shah was much impressed with the appearance of the crowds who greeted him on his journeyings through London, and he is rather inclined to believe that the homage paid him by a curious mob was due to his importance as a ruler, a surmise it would be perhaps unwise to undeceive him about. The Diary is an interesting supplement to the journey itself, and when we add that the publisher, Mr. John Murray, of Albemarle-street, has spared no pains in the embellishment of the volume, we feel sure that it will be sought for by all those who wish to renew their acquaintance with an Eastern Sovereign whose popularity was so unbounded during his stay amongst us.

Mr. Jones, the first part of whose pamphlet, *The Million on the Rail, and Railroad Dividends*, we have noticed, has now issued a second portion, in which he gives an exhaustive review of the traffic on the various railways, with a view to adducing evidence in support of the arguments introduced in the earlier part of the pamphlet.

In "The Light of Fern Glen," by Mr. H. Holt (Marlborough and Co.), we have a very pleasant story, well told. It is a welcome addition to our Christmas literature.

The official report on the Vienna Exhibition ordered by Government has been issued, but presents no new feature of interest.

GERMANY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

HAMBURG, DEC. 22.

Since I sent off my last letter nothing further has been done in the German Parliament with regard to the new Bank Law, about which the Committee of twenty-one members and the Federal Council have, however, come to an understanding as reported below, before it is brought forward again. In the meantime the House has been busily engaged in discussing the Budget of 1875, it being of great importance to get through with it before the adjournment of the House for the holidays.

One item of the Budget that was quite new, and will no doubt be appreciated by your readers, is a sum placed on the Estimates for the establishment of a Scientific Institution to be founded at Hamburg under the name of the "Deutsche Seewarte," or Marine Observatory, the practical benefits to be derived from which must be apparent to every one connected with commercial affairs, navigation and insurance. In the preamble of the Bill and the explanatory "Motives" it is described as having for its object to extend the knowledge of the sea and all the branches of science connected with it; to observe the weather on the coasts of Germany and give warning signals to vessels if a storm may be expected; to promote the interests of navigation by utilising the observations made and collected; to test and correct the more important instruments used on board ship for the safety of life and property, such as the chronometers, sextants, and barometers; to collect and journalise the physical relations of the sea and meteorological observations made during the voyage of a vessel from a distant country; to form a collection of maps and charts of the more important coasts and harbours; to make observations on magnetism, and especially its effect on the deviation of the compasses in iron ships; to compile handbooks for the safest and quickest route for different voyages; to edit and publish a periodical containing the most recent discoveries and information that may be of practical utility to ship-masters, and to give them every advice and assistance they may stand in need of.

In the debate that ensued a Member proposed to extend the field of operations to keeping a strict watch on the encroachments or recession of the sea, and a control over the safety of the dykes that preserve the low country near the sea from those fearful inundations that have from time to time done such fatal injuries to Holland, Denmark, Heligoland, and other lines of coast. Mosle (the member for Bremen) warned the House against passing this amendment, as being out of the bearings of the proposed institution. In this he was supported with all the weight of Government by General von Stosch, the Head of the Admiralty, who pronounced it as simply a local question, and one more suited for land-surveyors and road-makers who are closely connected with earth-works. The amendment was consequently thrown out. Captain St. Paul-Hillaire, of the German Navy, moved that the Sea Observatory be considered a branch of the Hydrographical Department of the Admiralty, which was accepted without a division. Herr Schmidt, member for Stettin, objected to Hamburg as the seat of the Institution, as not being so well suited for the purpose as Berlin, which, though more inland, has telegraphic communication with all parts of the coast, whereas at Hamburg new wires would have to be laid in every direction. If it was urged that at Hamburg the officials of the Observatory would be in direct and *ried roce* relations with the captains and shipmasters of all countries and from all parts of the world, it should not be lost sight of, that at Berlin it would have the support of the Academy of Sciences, the University, the Observatory, and other scientific institutions. These objections, however, found no favour with the House, the Bill was passed in its original form with the amendment of Capt. St. Paul-Hillaire to place the Institution under the orders and control of the Admiralty. The sum placed on the estimates for the purpose, and passed without a murmur, was 50,000 reichs marks for salaries and remunerations, as also 24,500 marks for fitting-up expenses, signal stations, telegraphic instruments, wires, &c.

The proposals laid before the Parliamentary Committee by President von Delbrück, with regard to the new arrangement of the Bank Law, with a Central Bank, state that the present Bank of Prussia shall be changed into a private Bank under the control and management of the State, with a working capital of 120 million marks, one half of which to be raised by the sixty millions belonging to private individuals, and the other half by subscription. The present shareholders, if willing to forego their claims to the Reserve Fund of the Bank of Prussia, will receive an equal nominal amount of shares in the new concern in exchange for their present shares. Shareholders who decline these terms will be paid off at par, and the sum required for that purpose, as well as the other half of the capital, will be open for public subscription in the form of new shares. The notes of the new Reichsbank will be taken at full value by all public offices in Germany; Prussia to receive back its capital of 1,906,500 thalers, with one-half of the Reserve Fund. The Bank of Prussia to receive an indemnity of five million thalers, for loss of commission and profits connected with loans negotiated and still pending. The amount of uncovered bank notes not to exceed 380,000,000 marks, which are liable to the annual duty of one per cent. In this sum the Reichsbank may participate to the extent of 250,000,000 marks, Bavaria 32,000,000 marks, the Saxon Banks 24,000,000 marks, the Prussian private Banks, exclusive of the Bank of Frankfurt, 12,988,000 marks, the Banks of Frankfurt, Wurtemberg, and Baden, and the Bank for South Germany, each of them 10,000,000 marks, and the other Banks of Issue, together 21,012,000 marks, making the above total amount. A new paragraph is added, to the effect that those Banks of Issue, whose privileges expire during the fifty years for which the Reichsbank is chartered, those privileges are transferred without further legislation to the last named Institution. The other alterations are merely in the wording of the draft required to suit the above. In this state it will probably be brought before Parliament.

The appointment of Consul-General at New York for Germany, which has been vacant some months by the occupant, Dr. J. Röding,

being recalled to fill an important and influential post in the Foreign Office at Berlin, has been definitely filled up, the appointment being given to Dr. H. A. Schumacher, a native of Bremen, hitherto Diplomatic Agent in Central America, who, we further learn, has safely arrived at New York, after a long and perilous journey overland from Santa Fe de Bogota.

A few days ago Herr Mosle, Member of Parliament for Bremen, had the honour of an audience of H.M. the Emperor, to present the first copy of the work on the Second German North Polar Expedition, when he informed his Majesty that it was the intention of the German Geographers to send out another expedition in the spring of 1876, provided Parliament would provide the funds. The Emperor spoke very favourably of this fresh undertaking, and promised his cordial co-operation and support.

ARRIVALS AT HAMBURG FROM THE FAR EAST.—Herr Bahre, from Batavia; Griese, from Rangoon; Noebel, from the Amoor; Consul E. J. Erdmann, from Samarang; Roedecker, from China; Fr. Grobien, from Hong Kong.

COMMERCIAL.

The Produce Markets being closed on account of the holidays there are no transactions to report. The Share Market is, however, open, and the shares of most of our Banks are steady. The Norddeutsche Bank has just moved into its splendid new palace in the street called "Neuerwall," where also the offices of the International Bank are now transferred, they having rented a suitable set of offices of the former.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVED.—Ulva, from Singapore.

SAILED.—Egeria (str.), for Singapore and China; Catharine, to Hio-go; Anna, to Hong Kong; Carl and Auguste, to South Sea Islands.

The frost has set in again with great severity. The navigation of the Elbe is not entirely interrupted, but greatly impeded, and we shall probably have an opportunity of testing the efficacy of the steam ice breaker alluded to in my last letter.

The Hambury-New York Company's mail steamer Silesia on her last homeward voyage had the satisfaction of saving the crew of the British ship Brierley in mid-Atlantic, and landing them safely at Plymouth.

HOLLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, DEC. 22.

An important political event has transpired since my last letter. On the 19th inst. we were surprised by the news that Mr. Loudon, the Governor-General of Java, had presented his resignation. On the same day the Second Chamber held its last sitting for this year, and Mr. Van Goltstein was interpellated about this rumour. The Minister stated that it was true; Mr. Loudon had repeatedly asked for his dismissal, at first under certain conditions, and finally without any conditions. The King had accepted it, and Mr. Loudon's successor would be gazetted that very night. The reason? Well, the Minister said that there was some difference of opinion upon a certain subject; but we do not know what subject it was. I need not add that a good many speculative *on dits* were circulated about the successor to the Governorship, and when the name of Mr. W. J. Van Lansberge, our ambassador at the Court of Brussels, was mentioned, it was thought to be a hoax. However, it was quite true, Mr. Van Lansberge having been formally appointed. I hear he is a most able diplomatist but an Ultramontane, and till now has been an entire stranger to colonial matters. I think his appointment will cause a storm of indignation. His place at Brussels will, a rumour says, be filled by Mr. Gericke Van Herwynen, who is very partial to the Belgian capital. The leading Liberal paper, the *Handelsblad*, declares its astonishment that the Minister was so reticent with his information as to the reasons which led to Mr. Loudon's dismissal. Why did the Chamber not ask for more ample information? Was it a matter of no importance? Were the members asleep? But if we were surprised, the paper says, by the news, we were the more astonished on reading the name of his successor. It further states that Mr. van Lansberge is an absolute "know-nothing" as regards colonial matters, and at this time it is most necessary to appoint a Governor-general who is *au courant* with the topics of the day in Java. The *Handelsblad* is of opinion that there are black spots on our colonial horizon.

The Chamber is now in recess; but before leaving the Hague the members voted the last chapters of the Budget. The Minister of the War Department obtained a satisfactory majority, although his policy was criticised most severely. A shower of sharp remarks poured from all parts of the House, and poor Mr. Weitzel could hardly have expected his majority of fourteen votes. The main objection against his policy was that he wants seventeen millions a year to consolidate our means of defence, of which nothing is at present organised. This, you will agree, annoying. If we pay such an enormous sum we like to obtain something for it. It is of no use to throw the money out of the window. The present state is bad, but I think the future will be still worse. The Minister stated positively that he is quite unable to spend the money in a more productive way; he will want even still more money, notwithstanding that the vote for our means of defence has been doubled within a few years. The reason that his estimates were not rejected was, that we have had a succession of Ministers for this department without gaining one step in the right direction. The members were withheld from saying "No," by the fear that the successor of Mr. Weitzel might be still worse than he is. And, indeed, he is a most able man; such is the general opinion. Perhaps a parliamentary *enquête* will be opened in order, if possible, to find out the reasons why we spend such enormous sums for military purposes with no practical results. With the Colonial Budget the debates were closed. Several members attacked the Minister, Van Goltstein, and declared openly that he had no system. When he was member of Parliament he was a Conservative, whilst he now seems to be converted into a Liberal. Messrs. Kuyper and Gratama wished for more explanations about our policy in Atchin. The

all the trade between Malacca and the Lingie River, has also visited Singapore several times lately, with the view of seeking the assistance of the British Government in opening up the resources of his country, the tin mines of which have never yet been worked, owing to an ancient prophecy, which has been handed down from generation to generation, that ill luck would attend that ruler of Rumbow who first permitted minerals to leave his country. However, the present Datu is a bright, intelligent young man, and seems inclined to set at nought the ancient legend.

At Salangore the Sultan has for the last four months had an officer of the Civil Service resident at his Court, whose advice he invariably seeks in all important questions, and whose expenses his Highness has volunteered to defray, and does punctually defray, to our Exchequer by monthly instalments. Indeed, so converted to more enlightened ideas has this old monarch become, that he has issued a proclamation notifying "all whom it may concern," that he has been pleased to consent that in future all revenue shall be collected by the agent of the British Government, and that he will grant concessions on liberal terms to all settlers, guaranteeing to them the same security of life and property that they would find under the British flag. Of this proclamation there is little doubt that many will avail themselves, for the district of Salangore, especially the neighbourhood of the Langat River, is admirably adapted for the cultivation of tobacco, sugar, and tapioca. To proceed still northwards, the State of Perak is just now most interesting. In that part of Perak known as Laroot, the industrious Chinese are busily working the tin mines, and now that they have been unmolested for some months they are working them with such good effect that it is estimated that the revenue derived from this district alone will reach \$100,000 a year, and Captain Speedy, the Acting Resident, is actively opening up roads, forming reservoirs of water for the mines, and carrying out other works of public utility. Of course there have been difficulties; some of them grave enough to cause for the moment much anxiety, but prompt and vigorous measures have checked and removed them in their commencement, and instead of leading to a series of complications, their speedy suppression has rather fostered confidence in the Power which has overcome them, and tended to restore that European ascendancy which, once firmly implanted among the natives, will probably in itself suffice to prevent a recurrence.

There has been, too, a difficulty on the east coast in the State of Pahang between the Bandahara, as Chief, of that Province, and the Maharajah of Johore, originating in a murder committed by some of the retainers of the former, who were stationed as head men on the River Indau, the frontier between the two States. There has been for years past an ill-feeling between these two Princes, who are relations, and we all know how bitter quarrels among kinsmen can become, and, a political motive having been assigned to the deed, the complication threatened to become so serious that Sir Andrew Clarke proceeded thither in person with Her Majesty's ships *Charybdis*, *Hart*, and *Arion*, and after a preliminary visit to Indau held an interview with the Bandahara and advised him to institute a searching inquiry into the matter in co-operation with the Maharajah, who was only too willing to abide by the decision of our Government. With such good results was this interview attended that not only did the Bandahara appoint three of his chiefs as Commissioners to proceed to Indau and commence an investigation, but he has since written to the Governor acquainting him how the inquiry was proceeding, and soliciting his good offices in procuring for him labour to enable him to reopen the rich gold mines with which his country is teeming. Such labour there is never any difficulty in obtaining, Chinese coolies being plentiful throughout the settlements, and willing enough to work, if only they can do so with security to life and property; but there is no doubt that these Chinese require European experience to direct them. The returns for investments made in agriculture are both high and rapid. Tapioca yields some 20 per cent.; sugar, 25 to 30 per cent.; and in tobacco the profit seems so fabulous that I would hesitate to give credence to the estimates had I not been positively assured by an English planter of experience, who has just returned from inspecting the cultivation of that plant in Sumatra, that in some cases the returns were during the first year 50 per cent. and in subsequent years cent. per cent. on the outlay. This is a young country in agriculture, with a virgin soil rich in alluvial deposits, and a climate so unvarying that there is but little dread of those droughts or floods to which in less-favoured climes planters and farmers are exposed. True that the planting of tobacco has hitherto not been carried out on any large scale in the peninsula, but on the opposite coast of Sumatra the experiment has been tried under similar conditions with the results above quoted, and the tobacco obtained is said to be good enough to form the outside leaf of manufactured cigars. In Sumatra, too, there is difficulty in extending the experiment, labour being difficult to obtain in the Dutch Dependencies, a drawback which does not exist in our settlements, where the liberal rule of the Government attracts coolies in large numbers from China and from India.

KOREA AND JAPAN.

The relations between Korea and Japan have for some time been in an extremely critical state. The Koreans, proud of their successful resistance to the French and American invasions of their coast in 1866 and 1871, have been in the habit of looking with contempt on their less conservative neighbours, and have viewed with loudly expressed dissatisfaction the—as they consider—undue concessions which the Japanese Government have made to foreign demands. Not long since it was reported that the King of Korea had stamped under foot a letter addressed to him by the Mikado, and a few months ago the people showed themselves to be in accord with their Sovereign by burning down a village on the coast peopled by Japanese settlers. Now we learn that all this has been changed, that the Korean Government is profuse in its expressions of goodwill towards Japan, and that the prominent members of the anti-Japanese party have been cast into prison. The difficulty of gaining any insight into the political workings of these far distant States is such that we are thankful for any light

that may be cast on the subject, more especially when that light is derived from purely native sources. Of the motives which gave rise to this change of front on the part of the Korean officials the writer of a letter to the *Nishin Shinjishi* supplies a very reasonable account. The writer, who signs himself "A Waiter for a Good Opportunity," and who describes himself as being a Samurai from the Nagasaki district, reproduces in his letter, an epitomised English version of which appears in the *Japan Mail*, the substance of a communication which he had received from a well-informed friend on the state of politics in Korea. From it we learn that in June last a Japanese Envoy, Moriama Shigeru by name, was sent to Korea. On reaching the capital he found that the King's Government was much alarmed at the magnitude of the preparations which Japan was making for the Formosan expedition, as they feared that should the Japanese return in triumph the forces which would then become disposable would be turned against themselves. Under these circumstances, Moriama found the task of "dispelling the ingrained illusions of years" a comparatively easy one, and the Government was at length induced "to recognise the favourable sentiments cherished towards it by Japan." The next step was to secure that punishment should be meted out to those "officials who ever since 1868 have been hostile to Japan," and though the "Waiter for a Good Opportunity," professes to shudder at the severity shown towards these offenders—of whom he relates that the Governor of Toraifu has been banished; that the Kundo, the official in charge of Japanese affairs, has been thrown into prison; that the interpreter, Saizaishu, has been put in irons and confined in a strong gaol; that all their confederates have been arrested and that their property has been confiscated—we cannot but suspect that a word from his countryman, Moriama, would have mitigated the severity of these sentences, or that at least his influence would have been sufficient to have saved the Kundo and Saizaishu from the fate which is said to await them of having "their heads exposed by way of satisfaction to Japan." The fear which had overspread the land must have been great indeed if, as we are told, "all the inhabitants now feel as though the gloom of night were dispersed, and hold feasts of congratulation. The Korean officials," also, "at their interviews with us, showed their regret for the past and their wish to be guided by us for the future, and try earnestly that friendly relations may be cemented." These words and sentiments, aptly remarks the writer, "greatly resemble those of a defeated general declaring that he surrenders himself." Moriama appears to have personally reaped some of the benefits of this change of feeling. Verses were written to his honour, and every demonstration of respect was shown towards him. "We are well acquainted," said the Korean Ministers to him, "with the power and prosperity of your honourable country. Your eloquence is better than a million soldiers." But such cajolery fails to impose on the "Waiter for a Good Opportunity," who, with Bismarckian frankness, adds, by way of comment, "While by such flattering speeches they try to appease our anger, they unmistakably betray their own faintheartedness."

PACIFIC MAIL COMPANY INVESTIGATION.

(NEW YORK TIMES.)

The Pacific mail jobbers must now meet the charges against them before a committee of Congress. The Ways and Means Committee, finding an inquiry into the affairs of this company upon its docket of unfinished business, has taken the case immediately in hand. Yesterday, at a secret meeting of the committee, subpoenas were issued for several persons, whose testimony was desired, and the members pledged themselves to secrecy till announcements of the service of the papers was received. The late President Sage, Rufus Hatch, and C. K. Garrison have been summoned. A subpoena was forwarded for Irwin, who is credited with disbursing the funds by which the subsidies were pulled through Congress, but service upon him has not yet been made, though measures have been taken to secure his attendance. The investigation will probably be public. There is no doubt that if the facts can be obtained the inquiry will make a genuine sensation. Garrison has said things privately in New York, which have come to the knowledge of members of the committee, that, if repeated here, will bring some members of Congress into the case. He is reported to have said, for instance, that a certain Congressman threatened his life if he should testify to the truth. Congressional investigations have not usually accomplished much, but the success of the Committee on Ways and Means last winter with the Sanborn frauds gives hopes of its clearing up the mysteries of the Pacific Mail. The Committee on Ways and Means will begin the investigation as soon as the witnesses summoned arrive, which may possibly be to-morrow. The examination by this committee will be confined to inquiries as to the use of money in Congress in securing the passage of subsidies. Whatever developments of the other affairs of the company are made they will be incidental to the inquiry in this direction. It ought to be said in this connection that the attack upon Mr. Garfield for reporting from the Appropriations Committee the appropriation for the continuance of this subsidy is exceedingly unjust, for the Appropriation Committee has not only not reported it, but has not yet acted upon this item in connection with the Appropriation Bill.

Some disclosures were recently made at Washington with regard to the Pacific Mail subsidy. A Mr. Parsons, a member from Cleveland, Ohio admitted that he had received money for securing the passage of the Pacific Mail subsidy. He was at the time the Bill was passed Marshal of the United States Supreme Court, and he had the reputation not only of lobbying for the Pacific Mail subsidy, but of spending some of the money for the Taxes Pacific Railroad.

THE ACTING AMERICAN MINISTER AT PEKING

THE RECENT CHINESE REBELLION.

Chargé d'Affaires Williams, writing to the Secretary of State under date of Peking, February last, speaks of the reduction of the last

stronghold of the Mohammedan rebels who controlled the north-western provinces of Shensi and Kansuh for more than ten years. He shows the merciless nature of Chinese warfare, and the rancour of war as aggravated in this rebellion by the bitterness of religious bigotry in which the Mohammedans excelled. There is no reason for doubting the statements here given, and as the rebels had themselves given no quarter, I suppose they expected none. The insurrection thus ended has left large portions of these two provinces nearly depopulated, and years must elapse before they can recover from the desolation of war. In cases where these rebels, who are said to be all pure Chinese, and not Turks, met bodies of native Catholics in their progress, they are reported to have always spared their lives if not found in arms. The capture of Suh-Chan brings to an end all organised rebellion within the borders of China proper, or the eighteen provinces. It began in 1848, in the towns lying west of Canton City, and, through the mismanagement of the provincial authorities, its leaders waxed stronger and more desperate, and, under the name of Taepings (Great Peace), nearly succeeded in dismembering the Empire. They were finally subdued in 1865. After the capture of Nanking the Mohammedans rose in array in the south-west and north-west, where they set the Imperialists at defiance for ten years or more, but are now no longer formidable, and the few chiefs who may have escaped with a small following will not be able to gather head in those devastated districts. The manner in which orderly government, trade and rebuilding in the ruined towns has revived in those departments in the Valley of the Yangtze, which were left almost like a wilderness in 1865, leads me to hope for a similar reviving in the western provinces.

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS IN KOREA.

Mr. Williams says, March 30:—A Roman Catholic bishop, whose diocese comprises a part of Manchuria and the region contiguous to Korea, has lately reached Peking from Newchwang, and brings an account of an entire change in the Government of Korea within the last three months, and the removal of the ruler who had usurped the chief authority during the past fifteen years. The change has been brought about without bloodshed, and the Bishop ("Monsignor R.") looks forward to a peaceable state of their missions, seeing that the new authorities are favourably disposed toward foreigners and Christianity.

Monetary and Commercial.

The directors of the Canada Company have decided to recommend, at the meeting on the 31st inst., a dividend of £1 per share for the half-year ending the 10th prox.; also to divide a further sum of £2 per share as a twelfth instalment, in repayment of the paid capital of the company.

The directors of the National Steamship Company have, out of the insurance account, declared a dividend for the half-year ending the 31st inst. of 6s. on each Original share, and 3s. on each Preferential share, free of income-tax, and payable on the 1st prox.

The Board of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Company (Limited) have declared a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the Ordinary Shares of the company for the half-year ending 30th June last (carrying forward a balance of £13,865), payable on the 1st proximo.

The directors of the Colonial Bank have decided to declare at the half-yearly general meeting, to be held on the 7th prox., a dividend upon the paid-up capital of 7½ per cent. for the half-year ending the 30th June last.

The directors of the Peel River Land and Mineral Company (Limited) have decided to recommend to the proprietors at the annual general meeting to be held on the 15th prox., a second dividend of 2½ per cent., which will make, with the interim dividend of 2½ per cent., paid on account in July last, a total distribution of 5 per cent. for the year ending June last.

The directors of the Bank of Roumania have declared a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable on the 1st proximo.

The failure is announced of Messrs. Robert Maxwell and Co., of Mincing-lane, with liabilities estimated at £100,000, and their suspension involves that of Maxwell and Co., of Madras. The books of the firm have been placed in the hands of accountants. The failure is also announced of George O. Brown and Co., flax export and import merchants, of Dundee, with liabilities amounting to about £30,000.

In our last we noticed the difficulties of Findlay, Wade, and Co., Shanghai, and that a meeting of creditors of Capt. Findlay had been held in Greenock. As an interim measure, it was decided that Mr. Findlay should execute a trust deed, subject to the approval of the creditors.

The firms of Bourjau, Hubener, and Co., of Hamburg and China, and of Macgregor and Co., Hong Kong, are also reported in difficulties.

The joint official liquidators of the Albert Life Assurance Company announce that they have absolutely completed the payment of dividends to the creditors of the amalgamated companies, and that no further returns can be made.

The China Trans-Pacific steamer *Vasco de Gama* is reported at San Francisco on the 22nd in seventeen days from Yokohama.

The market for Bar Silver continues tolerably firm at 57½d. per oz., at which rate the amounts to hand this week have been taken. Mexican Dollars have been sold at 56d. per oz.

ARTICLES OF IMPORT.

Business in the Produce Markets has continued to exhibit the quietude incidental to this period of the year. No alteration of any importance has occurred, and the only change perceptible is a slight improvement in Rice, Silk and Tin. The Markets closed yesterday for the Christmas Holidays, and will reopen on the 5th proximo.

TEA.

The Market is virtually closed till after the Christmas recess, and as the trade for some few weeks past has been buying simply to supply current wants, and mostly of teas offered at auction without reserve, the stocks held must have run down to a low point. The position as regards figures reads highly satisfactory; the home consumption will reach 5,000,000 lbs. in excess of any former period, and the export department compares favourably, taking into consideration that so little common tea has been shipped to Russia this season. Prices for nearly all grades are very fair, but we question if any teas are giving a profit on import cost. There being no doubt that the season of 1874-5 is closed at the various shipping ports, and that under any circumstances nothing but rubbish can be obtained to swell supplies, should any be shipped, it is clearly to the interest of importers not to force business the coming year. The position of Green Tea is not satisfactory, though prices ruling are lower than for some years past. It is to the high cost in China that the blame must be laid which has led to the heavy losses of late. The consumption is about the same as during the years preceding the Taeping rebellion, but prices in China seem to be from 10 to 15 per cent. higher. The Adulteration Act, still in force, has, doubtless, interfered with sales, though we have heard of no prosecutions for some months. Indian Tea has barely kept up to the deliveries of last year, yet it now holds a firm position in the market, and without doubt will, every year, more seriously check the consumption of China growth of fine quality, unless the latter, which we doubt not, can be imported to compete with it. Accounts from India speak of a largely-increased area of land being brought under cultivation, and it is but natural that so profitable a field for capital will be eagerly availed of, and an important increase in supplies will follow.

SILK.

There is nothing new in the market; a little more inquiry for China Silk is showing itself, and prices seem steady at 12s. 6d. for fair 5, 15s. 6d. for Blue Elephant, and 19s. to 19s. 6d. for best chop-thirds; some little business has been doing lately on this basis. Canton Silk is quiet, and 11s. 3d. is the best offer now made for market No. 4 Tsattees; Japans are neglected, as also Bengals. Deliveries of China Silk are fair.

COTTON.—The market continues to exhibit a want of animation; the small business transacted, however, has been at steady rates.

COFFEE.—The concluding public sales of the year, held 22nd inst., passed off with very good spirit, and the small supplies offered were taken off with a good competition, at 1s. to 2s. per cwt. advance. The Plantation Ceylon, including a small quantity per steamer Burmese, amounted to 86 casks 15 tierces 9 barrels 67 bags, and the whole sold, good middling at 103s. to 105s., middling at 100s. to 102s. 6d., low middling at 97s. to 92s., small at 92s. to 94s. 6d., peas. at 115s. to 121s. 6d., and triage at 82s. to 87s. 6d.

CAMPOR has been very inactive; about 150 cases have been quitted at 71s. 3d. to 75s. per cwt.

COCONUT OIL.—Ceylon is firm at the last quoted rates.

GAMBER is firm and a small private business has been done at 25s. 6d. to 26s. per cwt.

GALLS.—Prices of China are rather easier; about 250 cases good sold, chiefly at 61s. 6d., but more recently a few cases dark at same figure.

HEMP.—Manila has been quiet at the previous value; about 1,000 bales have been sold privately at £31 15s. to £33 per ton for mixed to fair quality.

INDIA-RUBBER.—Market steady; of 109 cases Borneo at auction, a few sold at 11d. to 11½d. for common foul; good quality is worth 1s. 3½d. per lb.

JAPAN WAX.—Large sales have been effected privately at easy rates; 32 bags grey yellow, greasy unbleached, sold at 32s. per cwt.

PEPPER.—Black has continued dull, with small sales of Singapore at 6 7-16d. to 6½d.; Penang at 6½d. to 5½d., closing sellers at latter figure. At auction, of 807 bags offered, barely half sold; Singapore at 6½d. White has been in better demand and slightly advanced; at auction, of 764 bags, about 500 sold; fair to good 8½d. to 8½d. Privately 500 bags at 8½d. to 8½d., full terms.

RATTANS.—Market quiet; of 17,722 bundles offered at auction two-thirds were sold at 1s. 2d. to 3s. 3d. per 100 canes for ordinary to middling.

RICE.—The business on the spot has been almost nil. There has again been a good demand for floating cargoes of soft grain, and two have been announced at higher prices; one Rangoon, October sailing, at 10s., Liverpool quay terms, and one Bassein, per Walls Castle, August sailing, containing 960 tons, at 9s. 9d., Liverpool quay terms.

SPICES.—Cinnamon: There has been a fair small trade, chiefly in the bought-in lots of last quarterly sales, at sales' rates, and a few lots of fine in second hands at a slight advance. Cassia Lignea: Market steady; and 350 cases at public sale were sold at 56s. for coarse mouldy unworked; sales of good at 59s. to 59s. 6d. for small lots, closing rather firmer. Afloat offering at 60s. Buds: Steady; but nothing done. Cloves: Penang are very scarce and firm. Mace: The market continues quiet; and sales are of small extent. Nutmegs: Quiet; and of 122 cases offered about half placed; 96's at 3s. 3d.; 134's to 122's at 2s. 8d. to 2s. 11d.

SUGAR.—The dullness previously existing has continued and scarcely any business has been done during the week. The only sale of East India has been 14,000 bags clayed Manila at 20s. per cwt.

SAGO and TAPIOCA are without change.

SAPANWOOD continues scarce and firm; 6 tons Manila of fair quality sold at £10 10s., and 4 tons Ceylon at £12 per ton.

TIN.—Business has continued steady, and prices show a slight advance for Straits. Subjoined are the closing quotations:—Straits on the spot £94, float £93 to £93 10s., Banca £100, Billiton £95 per ton.

Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVALS.

Date.	Ship.	Captain.	From	At
Dec. 16	Kortenaar	Walker	Batavia	Portsmouth
18	Winlow	Barker	Do.	Liverpool
	Evening Star	Asburn	Singapore	New York
	Olivia Davis	Mantle	Do.	Do.
19	Glenfinlas (s.)	Wilcox	China & New York	London
20	Pieve Superiore	Runelli	Singapore	Do.
	Cesare Becharia	Pastorina	Bassett	Falmouth
20	Dartmouth	Pizey	Shanghai	London
21	Moss Rose	McFee	Do.	Do.
21	Olympia (s.)	Paulsen	China, &c.	Do.
21	Margaritha Delfino	Stagno	Akyab	Off Deal
22	Lavagna Seconda	Canci	Rangoon	Plymouth
20	Ionis (s.)	—	Java, &c.	Brouwershaven
8	Victor	Hastorf	Yokohama	San Francisco
22	Matheran	—	Rangoon	Off Holyhead
2	H.M.'s Hutchinson (s.)	—	Nagasaki	San Francisco
23	Hong Kong (s.)	—	China, &c.	Off Dover
22	Emma Sims	Stephens	Colombo, &c.	London

DEPARTURES.

Date.	Ship.	Captain.	For	From
Dec. 17	Singapore (s.)	Dumbreck	Singapore	Glasgow
18	Berna	Timpe	Do.	Cuxhaven
19	Vichna	Finco	Yokohama	Cardiff
19	Tecumseh	Ellis	Singapore	Do.
19	Maasymph	—	Anjer	Do.
19	Victor	Ems	Galle	Penarth
19	Anna	Jessen	Hong Kong	Hamburg
19	Sir Lancelot	Feigle	Shanghai	London
19	Astrea	Jacgar	Macassar	Amsterdam
18	State of Virginia (s.)	Moodie	China, &c.	Portsmouth
18	Min (s.)	Morgan	Do.	Plymouth
17	Galatea	—	Manila	Haar
17	Harriet Hickman	—	Galle	Newport
17	Charlie Hickman	—	Do.	Do.
17	P. J. Carleton	Lerce	Canton	Dublin
17	Egeria (s.)	Entwistle	China, &c.	Cuxhaven
21	Lucknow	Phese	Colombo	London
21	Swatow (s.)	Kidley	Sing. China & Japan	Do.
19	Anton Gunther	Kuhn	Singapore	Cardiff
21	Fox	—	Do.	Shields
22	Truth	—	Anjer	Liverpool
22	Jonge Cornelis	Linden	Batavia	Cardiff
22	Mogul	Walker	Singapore	Do.
23	Buena Ventura (s.)	Echevarria	Manila	Liverpool
23	Glamis Castle (s.)	Raison	Sing. Hg. Kg. & Shang	London
23	Satsuma	Garrick	Yokohama & Hiogo	Do.
23	St. Lawrence (s.)	Hyde	Colombo, &c.	Do.

See Shipping Postscript and Correspondents' Letters.

LOADING.

At LONDON.—STEAMERS VIA SUEZ CANAL.—For Yokohama, Hiogo, and Nagasaki: Pernambuco. For Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai: Bengal, Lotus. For Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai: Glenartney, Glenfinlas. For Colombo, &c.: Duke of Devonshire.

SAILING VESSELS.—For Yokohama: Oleander. For Vladewostock and Nicolajefsk: Rowena. For Nicolajefsk: Genetiv. For Hong Kong: Balgownie, Min. For Shanghai: Scindia, Forward Ho. For Penang: Zehlina. For Batavia, Samarang, and Sourabaya: Nicola Tommaso. For Singapore: Edeline. For Colombo: Queensbury.

At LIVERPOOL.—For Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai: Patroclus (str.), Diomed (str.), Antenor (str.). For Hong Kong (via Cardiff): Arvio. For Batavia and Sourabaya: Wein Hohenfelde. For Batavia: Sophia R. Luhrs.

At GLASGOW.—For Singapore (via Port Glasgow): Rosa (str.).

At GREENOCK.—For Singapore: Comet.

SPOKEN.

N.L.B.K., Samarang to Middleburg, Nov. 20, 25 S., 3 E.
Q.C.H.F., Cardiff to Singapore, Nov. 4, 17 S., 30 W.
P.H.F.E., (?) Batavia to New York, Sept. 20, 36 S., 21 E.
CLARRISSA, Cardiff to Singapore, Nov. 7.
PEARL, New York to Anjer, on the line.
SARNETA, Penang to New York, Nov. 21, 41 N.
P.C.K.M. (Ger. ship), Amsterdam to Batavia, Nov. 9, 2 S., 29 W.

FREIGHTS AND CHARTERS.

We have little or no alteration to make in berth rates of freight to the Eastern ports, and business generally is somewhat contracted. Coal freights remain as quoted below.

Current Rates of Freight for Vessels on the Berth.

Per STEAMERS VIA SUEZ CANAL.—To Yokohama: 55s. weight or meat. To Hiogo: 60s. weight or meat. To Nagasaki: 65s. weight or meat. To Shanghai: 50s. weight, 40s. meat. To Hong Kong: 50s. weight, 40s. meat. To Singapore: 50s. weight, 40s. meat. To Penang: 50s. weight, 40s. meat. To Colombo: 40s. weight or meat.

Per SAILING VESSELS.—To Yokohama: 40s. weight, 35s. meat. To Hiogo: 45s. weight, 40s. meat. To Shanghai: 40s. weight, 25s. meat. To Chefoo, Tientsin, or Newchwang: 50s. weight, 45s. meat. To Hong Kong: 35s. weight, 25s. meat. To Singapore: 27s. 6d. weight, 25s. meat. To Colombo: 25s. weight or meat. To Penang: 30s. weight or meat.

The current quotations for coal, &c., are as follows:—From Wear or Tyne, per keel—To Singapore: £25. To Penang: £25, f.c. To Batavia and Sourabaya: £28. To Galle: £23.

From Newport, Cardiff, or Swansea, per ton.—To Yokohama: 37s. To Hong Kong: 31s. To Shanghai: 35s. To Singapore: 25s. To Colombo: 23s. to 24s. To Galle: 22s. to 23s. To Manila: 25s. to 26s.

From Birkenhead, per ton.—To Hong Kong: 22s. To Shanghai 27s. 6d. To Singapore: 19s.

CASUALTIES.

The Terentia, Bevan, from Glasgow to Singapore, put into Falmouth Dec. 15, with loss of sails and bulwarks.

NEW YORK, DEC. 5.—The Johanne (Ger. ship), Bange, arrived here Dec. 2, from Manila, reports that on Nov. 13, in lat. 30 N., lon. 69 W., she experienced a severe squall from S. to N.W., lasting one hour, during which she lost foretopmast, fore and main topgallantmast. On Nov. 24, in lat. 36 N., lon. 70 W., she encountered a hurricane, beginning at S. and veering to N., lasting twenty-four hours, in which she lost forestaysail.

PORTSMOUTH, DEC. 17.—The Maria Eliza (Dut.), V. Deursen, from Amsterdam to Sourabaya, with a general cargo, has arrived at the Motherbank, with loss of jibboom, head gear, cat head, &c., and stem damaged, having been in collision in the North Sea; later accounts state that she has been towed into harbour to undergo repairs.

LIVERPOOL, DEC. 18.—The Winlow, arrived here to-day from Samarang, encountered very heavy gales when passing the Western Islands between the 10th and 15th, and shipped some heavy seas, which carried away longboat and a portion of mainrail and bulwarks; also stove a large iron water tank which was lashed on deck.

GREENOCK, DEC. 17.—The Singapore (str.), Dumbreck, from Glasgow to Singapore, took the ground at Gravel Point during a fog yesterday afternoon; she floated off at high water and proceeded to sea.

STONAWAY, DEC. 15.—It is reported that the tops of the lower masts of the Maju are now above water.

HONG KONG, DEC. 19.—The Japan (American mail str.), from Yokohama to Hong Kong, took fire at sea and was totally destroyed. The chief engineer, one passenger, and seven Chinese crew have arrived here.—Dec. 21. The master and several more of the crew and passengers arrived here yesterday. There are now missing Mr. Tyndall, a cabin passenger and one steerage, the surgeon of the ship, a few of the crew, and about 400 Chinese. The fire was first discovered over the boilers on Dec. 17, 150 miles from Hong Kong. It being impossible to subdue it the master decided the following day to abandon her. The boats remained near until the noon, in order to save life, and then proceeded to Swatow.

The County of Sutherland (str.), from Java to Rotterdam, grounded on the Schaar, near Brouwershaven, but floated off without assistance.

The United Service (str.) has been put upon the hydraulic lift, and it has been ordered that the defective plates which are under the engine-room be doubled upon the outside, and that new rivets be put in and the cement renewed where necessary, after which the vessel will be in a perfectly good condition to proceed.

LISBON, DEC. 21.—The Rollo, Off. No. 60,802, from London to Hong Kong, with a general cargo, has been towed in here from lat. 42.30 N., 9.40 W., with main and mizenmasts gone, with all attached boats crushed, and with loss of a portion of bulwarks and rails, poop-deck stove and pump gear damaged; ship tight; happened 16th; no agreement.

MISCELLANEOUS.

At PORT SAID.—Dec. 17, Abbotsford (str.), from London to Singapore and China; 20, Holland (str.), from Nieuwe Diep to Java; 21, Amboina (str.), from Glasgow to Java; 22, Elgin (str.), from London to Colombo, &c.

At SUEZ.—Dec. 18, Voorwaarts (str.), from Java to Nieuwe Diep. The Visayas (str.) (of Manila), which is reported to have left Hong Kong for Manila on the 16th September last, has been posted by the Committee of Lloyd's as a missing vessel.

At MOSSEL BAY.—Henrietta, and sailed, Dec. 18, for Batavia.

LAUNCHES, &c.

On Dec. 21 there was launched from the building yard of Messrs. Caird and Co., Greenock, a screw steamer for the Burmah Steamship Company, named the Shuaydagone. The following are her dimensions:—Length on main deck, 177ft.; breadth of beam, moulded, 23ft.; depth, moulded, 16ft. She has a pair of compound high and low pressure engines of 90-horse power nominal; tonnage, builders' measurement, 460 tons. Captain Bowers, the managing director, has superintended the building of this steamer, and another one to be launched shortly.

The P. and O. Company's steamer Lombardy, Captain Gilsion which put back damaged in the recent heavy gales, has completed her repairs, and sailed from Southampton on the 18th inst. for Bombay.

The steamer Esmeralda, Capt. Thebaud, the launch of which we lately noticed, from the yard of Messrs. Hall and Russell, Aberdeen, has had a trial trip, which has proved satisfactory, twelve knots having been attained. She proceeds, via Suez Canal, for Manila, to take up the local line in connection with the steamers of the Pacific Mail Company. This is one of the finest steamers ever built and engined by the firm, and we think will prove a credit to them.

THE AGRA BANK (Limited).

Established in 1833.

CAPITAL, £1,000,000.

Head Office:—NICHOLAS-LANE, LOMBARD-STREET, LONDON.
 Branches in Edinburgh, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Kurrachee, Agra, Lahore, Shanghai, Hong Kong.

Current accounts are kept at the Head Office on the terms customary with London Bankers, and interest allowed when the credit balance does not fall below £100. Deposits received for fixed periods on the following terms, viz.:—At 5 per cent. per annum, subject to twelve months' notice of withdrawal. For shorter periods deposits will be received on terms to be agreed upon. Bills issued at the current exchange of the day on any of the Branches of the Bank free of extra charge; and approved bills purchased or sent for collection. Sales and purchases effected in British and Foreign Securities, in East India Stock and Loans, and the safe custody of the same undertaken. Interest drawn, and Army, Navy, and Civil Pay and Pensions realised. Every other description of Banking Business and Money Agency, British and Indian, transacted.

J. THOMSON, Chairman.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, August 30, 1851.

PAID-UP CAPITAL, £1,500,000.

RESERVED FUNDS, £500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hong Kong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Pondicherry, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, and Yokohama on terms which may be ascertained at their Office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Route.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above-named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of £100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms for which may be ascertained on application at their Office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturdays, Ten to Two. Threadneedle-street, London, 1874.

COMPTOIR D'ESCOMPTE DE PARIS.

Incorporated by National Decrees of 7th and 8th of March, 1848, and by Imperial Decree of 20th July, 1854, and 31st December, 1866.

Recognised by the International Convention of 30th April, 1862.

CAPITAL, fully paid up, £3,200,000.

Reserved Fund ... £20,000,000 ... £800,000.

HEAD OFFICE:—14, Rue Bergère, Paris.

AGENCIES AT—Lyons, Marseilles, Nantes, Mulhouse, Roubaix (France), Brussels (Belgium), Alexandria (Egypt), Calcutta, Bombay, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Saigon (Cochin China), Bourbon (Reunion), and Yokohama (Japan).

LONDON BANKERS.—The Union Bank of London.

LONDON AGENCY.—144, Leadenhall-street, E.C.

MANAGER.—Theod. Dromel.

The London Agency grants Drafts and Letters of Credit, and purchases or collects Bills payable at the above-named places.

The Agency will conduct Banking business of every description with the Continent, India, China, &c. upon terms to be ascertained at the Office.

HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Capital, \$5,000,000. All paid up.

Reserve Fund, \$775,000.

COURT OF DIRECTORS AND HEAD OFFICE IN HONG KONG.

LONDON MANAGER.—W. H. Vacher, 32, Lombard-street Bankers—London and County Bank.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

Hong Kong	Hankow	Saigon
Shanghai	Yokohama	Singapore
Foochow	Hioho	Bombay
Ningpo	Manila	Calcutta

The Corporation grant Drafts upon, and negotiate or collect Bills at any of the Branches or Agencies; also receive Deposits for fixed periods, at rates varying with the period of deposit.

The Corporation issue Letters of Credit and Circular Notes negotiable in the principal cities of Europe, Asia, and America for the use of travellers.

They open Current Accounts for the convenience of constituents returning from China, Japan, and India.

They also undertake the Agency of constituents connected with the East, and receive for safe custody Indian and other Government Securities, drawing Interest and Dividends on the same as they fall due.

Shareholders having their shares on the London register receive their dividends at the fixed rate of 4s. 6d. per dollar. Dividends are payable in London in April and October, on receipt of the advice of meeting in Hong Kong, held in February and August.

EDUCATION.

A HOME is offered to two or three LITTLE GIRLS, with high educational advantages, by a LADY who has lately parted with the children of an Indian officer. French resident Governess; fine locality, ten miles from London; detached house; good garden, &c. Terms, 50 Guineas.

A. B., Office of the London and China Telegraph, 3, Cowper's-court, Cornhill, London, E.C.

T. W. JACKSON,
 COMMISSION AGENT
 SAN FRANCISCO.

**GRATEFUL—COMFORTING.
 EPPS'S COCOA.
 BREAKFAST.**

"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately-flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—See article in the *Civil Service Gazette*.

Made simply with boiling water or milk.

Sold in packets (in tins for abroad) labelled:—

JAMES EPPS & CO.,

HOMOEOPATHIC CHEMISTS,

49, Threadneedle-street, and 170, Piccadilly. Works:—Euston road and Camden Town, London.

Diploma of Merit, Vienna Exhibition, 1873.

YORKSHIRE RELISH

THE most delicious SAUCE in the world to CHOPS, STEAKS, FISH, &c. Sold by all Grocers and Oilmen in bottles 6d., 1s., and 2s. each. Trade mark—Willow-pattern plate.

PROPRIETORS:—

GOODALL, BACKHOUSE, & CO., LEEDS.

Diploma of Merit, Vienna Exhibition, 1873.

GOODALL'S BAKING POWDER.

THE BEST IN THE WORLD.—Makes delicious Bread without Yeast; Puddings, Pastry, &c., without Eggs, Butter or Lard. Bread made with this Powder is much easier to digest, and much more wholesome than that raised with yeast, and a larger quantity is obtained from the same weight of flour. One trial will convince the most sceptical of its superiority over others. Sold by Grocers, Chemists, and Oilmen in 1d. packets; 6d., 1s., 1s. 6d., and 2s. Tins. Prepared by GOODALL, BACKHOUSE, & CO., LEEDS.

Diploma of Merit, Vienna Exhibition, 1873.

GOODALL'S QUININE WINE.

THE BEST AND MOST AGREEABLE TONIC yet introduced. For the relief of Indigestion, General Debility, and Loss of Appetite it is invaluable. Recommended for its purity by the *Food Journal*, Arthur Hill Hassall, M.D., Wentworth L. Scott, Esq., F.C.S., F.A.S.L., F.R.S.S.A., &c. Sold by Grocers, Oilmen, and Chemists, in large bottles at 1s., 1s. 1d., 2s., and 3s. 3d. each. Prepared by GOODALL, BACKHOUSE & CO., LEEDS.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS

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Australia...	3,618	600	Jan.	21		
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Glenhulas ...	100 A1	2,120	330	To follow
Glenfalloch ...	100 A1	2,126	375	To follow
Glenyle ...	100 A1	1,676	200	To follow
Glenearn ...	100 A1	2,120	330	To follow
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Sing. Yok.	Riga, s.s.	100 A1	S.W.I.D.	To follow
Hong Kong	Balgownie	A1 9 yr.	E.I.D.	With des
Yokohama	Oleander	A1 10 yr.	E.I.D.	With des

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